

AGENDA ITEM 5**REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****24th SEPTEMBER 2021****REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER****GOVERNANCE AND APPOINTMENTS****SUMMARY**

This report summarises changes to membership of Tees Valley Combined Authority committees which have taken place since the previous Cabinet meeting and requests ratification for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee. The Vice Chair of the Transport Committee will be updated at a future Cabinet meeting due to the timing of their meeting.

Ratification is also sought for the appointment of an Audit & Governance representative to the STDC Audit and Risk Committee.

This report also details the proposed amendment to Procedure Rule 19 of the TVCA Constitution following a request by Cabinet at their last meeting to give this further consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet agrees;

1. the appointments as set out in this report
2. the amendments proposed to procedure rule 19 of the TVCA Constitution as discussed in this report.

DETAIL**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

1. At its meeting on 15th September 2021 the Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee nominated the following:
 - Councillor John Hobson as Chair for the civic year 2021/22
 - Councillor Sandra Smith as Vice-Chair for the civic year 2021/22.

2. Cabinet are asked to approve the appointment of Councillors Jack Sowerby and David Willis from Darlington Borough Council and Councillors Theo Furness and Dorothy Davison from Middlesbrough Council as substitute members on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Audit and Governance Committee

3. At its meeting on 27th July 2021 the Tees Valley Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee nominated the following:
 - Councillor Chris Gallacher as Chair for the civic year 2021/22
 - Councillor Paul Crudass as Vice Chair for the civic year 2021/22.
4. The Audit and Governance Committee nominated Councillor Chris Gallacher as the representative on the South Tees Development Corporation Audit and Risk Committee.
5. Cabinet are asked to approve the appointment of Councillor Tom Feeney from Hartlepool Borough Council on to the Audit & Governance Committee.

Transport Committee

6. The Local Enterprise Partnership have nominated Matthew Ord as their representative on the Transport Committee with Steph Carter-Smith as deputy.

Independent Remuneration Panel

7. Cabinet are asked to approve the following representatives on to the Independent Remuneration Panel:-
 - Liz Dargue - representing Darlington;
 - Tracey Squires - representing Hartlepool.

Local Enterprise Partnership Membership

8. Graeme Mallows, Senior Project Manager at Net Zero Teesside is to be appointed as a Private Sector LEP Board member and will be the thematic lead for Clean Energy.
9. The Business Representative Organisations Observer Member for coming year will be Jane Reynolds from Tees Valley Business Club.

Combined Authority Statutory Officers

10. Cabinet is invited to approve that Emma Simson takes up the statutory role of Deputy Monitoring Officer for the Combined Authority following her appointment as Group Legal Manager. Emma Simson has already been approved by the STDC Board as deputy Monitoring Officer for STDC.

Non-statutory/advisory groups

11. Zoe Lewis will replace Kate Roe on the Education, Employment and Skills Advisory Group.

TVCA CONSTITUTION

12. Cabinet invited the Monitoring Officer to report back on the drafting of Procedure Rule 19 (urgent decisions) to address observations made by Stockton Borough Council at the Cabinet meeting held on 2nd July 2021. Following a very helpful discussion with the Monitoring Officer of Stockton Borough Council it is proposed that the procedure rule is amended by addition of the words marked in red below which provide greater clarity.

“Without limitation to the above, where a decision needs to be taken urgently and it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of the Cabinet or relevant committee or subcommittee of the Combined Authority, the Group Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair (or in their absence the Vice Chair) of the Cabinet or relevant committee or subcommittee, the Group Director of Finance and Resources and the Monitoring Officer, has the authority to take an urgent decision”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. Support for the governance of the Tees Valley Combined Authority is provided from within the Authority’s core budget, as agreed by Cabinet through the annual budget process, and funded through resources devolved from central government.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The report relates to the Constitution of the Combined Authority which sets out the appropriate statutory framework. The Constitution came into effect on 8th May 2017 and is legally binding.

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION

16. The five Constituent Local Authority Leaders have been appropriately consulted on appointments, and nominations have been made through each council. The Mayor has also been consulted on these proposals.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

17. There is a commitment from Cabinet to achieve a 50/50 gender balance and to increase overall diversity on the LEP. Although delayed by the COVID-19 outbreak it

is intended that any recruitment process will secure more diverse membership of the LEP.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

18. The items in this report have been circulated to LEP members in advance of coming forward to Cabinet.

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