

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda

**Date:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at 10am

**Venue:** Tees Valley Combined Authority (Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport, Darlington, England, DL2 1NJ)

**Membership:**

Cllr J Hobson (Chair) (Middlesbrough Borough Council)  
Cllr Smith (Vice Chair) (Redcar & Cleveland Council)  
Cllr Beall (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)  
Cllr Nelson (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)  
Cllr Branson (Middlesbrough Council)  
Cllr Harker (Darlington Borough Council)  
Cllr Harrison (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Cllr Nicholson (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Cllr C Hobson (Middlesbrough Council)  
Cllr Donoghue (Darlington Borough Council)  
Cllr Jones (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)  
Cllr Renton (Darlington Borough Council)  
Cllr Riordan (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)  
Cllr Clark (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)  
Cllr Little (Hartlepool Borough Council)

### AGENDA

- 1. Chairs Welcome & Apologies for Absence**  
Verbal
- 2. Declarations of Interest**  
Attached
- 3. Minutes of Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
Attached
- 4. Forward Plan**  
Attached
- 5. Group Update**  
Attached
- 6. Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-2023**  
Attached
- 7. UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Business Update (UKSPF)**  
Presentation
- 8. EES Update**

Attached

**9. Delegated Decisions**

Attached

**10. Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

TBC

**Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting**

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A (4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please contact:

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## **Tees Valley Combined Authority Declaration of Interests Procedures**

1. The purpose of this note is to provide advice and guidance to all members (the Mayor, elected and co-opted members, substitute members and associate members) of the Combined Authority Cabinet, Sub-Committees and Local Enterprise Partnership Board, on the procedure for declaring interests. The procedure is set out in full in the [Combined Authority's Constitution](#) under the "Code of Conduct for Members" (Appendix 8).

### **Personal Interests**

2. The Code of Conduct sets out in full, the principles on the general conduct of members in their capacity at the Combined Authority. As a general principle, members should act impartially and should not use their position at the Combined Authority to further their personal or private interests.
3. There are two types of personal interests covered by the constitution:
  - a. "disclosable pecuniary interests". In general, a disclosable pecuniary interest will involve any financial interests, such as paid employment or membership of a body, interests in contracts, or ownership of land or shares. Members have a pecuniary interest in a matter where there is a reasonable likelihood or expectation that the business to be considered will affect your well-being or financial position, or the well-being or financial position of the following persons:
    - i. a member of your family;
    - ii. any person with whom you have a close association;
    - iii. in relation to a) and b) above, their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or a company of which they are a director;
    - iv. any person or body in whom persons described in a) and b) above have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
    - v. any body as described in paragraph 3 b) i) and ii) below.
  - b. Any other personal interests. You have a personal interest in any business of the Combined Authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:
    - i. any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) and to which you are appointed or nominated by the Combined Authority;
    - ii. any body which:
      - exercises functions of a public nature;
      - is directed to charitable purposes;
      - one of whose principle purposes includes influencing public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management).

### **Declarations of interest relating to the Councils' commercial role**

4. The constituent councils of the Combined Authority are closely integrated with its governance and financial arrangements, and financial relationships between the Combined Authority and Councils do not in themselves create a conflict of interest for Council Leaders who are also Combined Authority Cabinet members. Nor is it a conflict

of interest if the Combined Authority supports activities within a particular council boundary. Nevertheless, there are specific circumstances where the Cabinet is considering entering into direct contractual arrangements with a council, for example in relation to a particular commercial investment project, or in which that council is a co-funder. In these circumstances a non-pecuniary declaration of interest should be made by the Council Leader or their substitute.

### **Procedures for Declaring Interests**

5. In line with the Code of Conduct, members are required to adhere to the following procedures for declaring interests:

#### **Register of Interests**

6. Each member is required to complete a register of interests form with their personal interests, within 28 days of their appointment to the Combined Authority. Details of any personal interests registered will be published on the Combined Authority's website, with the full register available at the Combined Authority's offices for public inspection. The form will be updated on an annual basis but it is the responsibility of each member to notify the Monitoring Officer of any changes to the register throughout the year. Notification of a change must be made to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of becoming aware of that change.

#### **Declaration of Interests at Meetings**

7. The Combined Authority will include a standing item at the start of each meeting for declaration of interests. Where members are aware that any of their personal interests are relevant to an item of business being considered at a meeting they are attending, they must declare that interest either during the standing item on the agenda, at the start of the consideration of the item of business, or when the interest becomes apparent, if later.
8. Where members consider that their interest could be considered by the public as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the members' judgement then they may not participate in any discussion and voting on the matter at the meeting, but may attend the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the business, before it is discussed and voted upon.
9. If the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest (as summarised in paragraph 3a) then the member must leave the meeting room during discussion and voting on the item of business, but may make representations, give evidence and answer questions before leaving the meeting room. Failure to comply with the requirements in relation to disclosable pecuniary interests is a criminal offence.

### **Sensitive Information**

10. Members can seek the advice of the monitoring officer if they consider that the disclosure of their personal interests contains sensitive information.

# Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 10.00am**

These Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting and are therefore subject to amendments.

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| <b>Present:</b>  |
| <b>Members</b><br>Cllr J Hobson (Chair – Middlesbrough Council)<br>Cllr Smith (Vice Chair - Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council)<br>Cllr Beall (Stockton Borough Council)<br>Cllr Renton (Darlington Borough Council)<br>Cllr Harker (Darlington Borough Council)<br>Cllr Harrison (Hartlepool Borough Council)<br>Cllr Branson (Middlesbrough Council)<br>Cllr Jeffrey (Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council)<br>Cllr Nelson (Stockton Borough Council)<br>Cllr Little (Hartlepool Borough Council)<br>Cllr Donoghue (Darlington Borough Council Borough Council)<br>Cllr Riordan (Stockton Borough Council) |
| <b>Apologies for Absence:</b><br>Cllr C Hobson (Middlesbrough Council)<br>Cllr Nicholson (Hartlepool Borough Council)  |
| <b>Officers in Attendance:</b><br>Julie Gilhespie (Group Chief Executive)<br>Gary Macdonald (Group Director of Finance & Resources, TVCA)<br>Emma Simson (Acting Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer, TVCA)<br>John McNicholas (Engineering and Programme Director, Teesworks)<br>Helen Kemp (Director of Business & Skills, TVCA)<br>Martin Waters (Business Growth Manager, TVCA)<br>Nicola Dean (Governance & Scrutiny Officer, TVCA)  |
| <b>Also in Attendance:</b><br>Mayor Ben Houchen<br>Matt Greaves (Principal Engineer – Water & Maritime, Haskoning)<br>Paul Scott (Contracts Director, Graham Construction)   |

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| <b>OSC<br/>11/22</b> | <b>CHAIR'S WELCOME &amp; APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b><br><br>The Chair welcomed Committee Members, Officers, the press, and members of the public to the Committee meeting. |
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|                             | <p>Apologies for absence were submitted as detailed above and it was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>The Chair informed the Committee that Mayor Houchen was attending the meeting remotely as he was in London at Parliament.</p> <p>Members of the press and public were reminded of the role they play as observers and the requirements of a statutory Committee.</p> <p>The Committee was informed that a member of the public was recording proceedings and no objections were raised.</p> <p>A round table of introductions were made.</p>  |
| <p><b>OSC<br/>12/22</b></p> | <p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>No declarations of interest were received.</p>  |
| <p><b>OSC<br/>13/22</b></p> | <p><b>MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record, with no amends required and it was confirmed that outstanding actions from that meeting were complete.</p> <p>Members were informed that the Freeport Business Case, previously requested by the Committee, was now published on the Combined Authority website.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that: the Minutes were agreed as a true record.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>OSC<br/>14/22</b></p> | <p><b>FORWARD PLAN</b></p> <p>The Forward Plan for 2022/23 was presented to the Committee for information.</p> <p>Members were asked if there were any comments on content.</p> <p>Discussion took place on forward planning for the next municipal year and the Chair explained that local elections in May would create delays after the March meeting as the Purdah period would be in place before the elections. It was confirmed that outcomes from LA AGMs would determine membership to the Committee for 2023/24 and the Chair agreed to avoid the long gap that was experienced last year because of Covid and LA AGMs. It was confirmed that once LA AGMs have passed, and nominations and appointments have been approved, a Committee meeting will be held.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that: the Forward Plan was noted.</b></p> |
| <p><b>OSC<br/>15/22</b></p> | <p><b>DELEGATED DECISIONS</b></p> <p>A report was circulated to members detailing the Delegated Decisions taken by the Combined Authority since the last meeting.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that: the details of the Report were noted.</b></p>  |

OSC  
16/22

## GROUP UPDATE

Julie Gilhespie (JG), Group Chief Executive, provided a summary of the Group Update which was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. The Committee was updated on the key activities of the Combined Authority since the last meeting, including updates in the following areas:

- Teesworks
- Freeport
- Teesside International Airport
- Tees Valley Business
- Education, Employment & Skills
- Transport: City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement/Hydrogen Transport Hub/Active Travel
- Clean Growth & Innovation
- Creative Place
- Business Investment

The floor was opened to Members for any clarification questions. Members asked:

- How do we encourage people to use public transport when putting Teesworks' park and ride infrastructure in place?

JG advised that with the number of jobs set to be created there, there is always going to be a mixed economy in terms of transport. The aspiration to have trains running every 15 minutes on that route was noted, though it was advised that to achieve that, there is a need to finish the Darlington railway project first, which will allow the operators to run more trains. The Committee was informed it was anticipated there will be enough people going to site to make the train and bus services viable and work continues with providers, but it was acknowledged that there is a challenge across the country to make public transport cost effective. John McNicholas (JM), Engineering & Programme Director at Teesworks, added that the initial demand for the car park is from the construction jobs that will be created. It was explained that Net Zero Teesside will peak at 2,000 construction jobs but there will also be other construction jobs and it has been assessed there will be a rolling figure of circa 5,000 people entering the site so other modes of transport will be crucial for access. It was explained that, over time, the permanent job demand would take over usage of the car park and without this provision there would be congestion on the A1085 Trunk Road as workers try to get on-site at the same time each day. The intention has been to try to remove this impact from the public highway network and so the 1,500 parking spaces for the park and ride is therefore in proportion.

- Will there be consultation with RCBC on the service complex as it impacts on the retail and leisure offer across the Greater Eston and Redcar area?

JG advised that there would not be at that stage, but the plan is to make the complex additional to the offer in Redcar town centre. She underlined that it is not designed to take travel from Redcar but to have additional facilities to allow people to stay in Redcar and not go elsewhere. Mayor Houchen added that there would be a consultation process with RCBC on the service area, so it doesn't impact on the good work that's been going on in Redcar.

- If the car park is to facilitate the peak employment around construction, would having a temporary car park not be preferable so this capacity can be reduced in future?

JM clarified that the peak will initially be from construction but over time will

transition to permanent jobs and figures will increase in this area as schemes move from development to operation, with the car park a twin-purpose facility. Many of the programmes have a long construction schedule with Net Zero over four years and SeAH two years.

- We all want to see the Airport do well but in December there were reports of some routes being scrapped and the member wondered why this wasn't in the Report. JG advised this hadn't been deliberately missed and explained it had been understood that this update was provided in the previous report. It was advised that a response will come back to the Committee on this.
- Cllr David Branson (DB) highlighted poor transport in the Middlesbrough area, specifically in relation to expansion plans in Nunthorpe and Hemlington, and existing issues in Coulby Newham. It was suggested there was a need for agreement and forward planning between builders and transport providers as there was concern people would become reliant on cars if there are no transport provisions.

JG agreed that this was a good idea and suggested taking this up with the Local Authority Planning Team. The Chair agreed it may be useful for DB to take this point up with the Head of Transport at Middlesbrough.

- Cllr Sue Little (SL) declared an interest in Transport as a transport provider in the Hartlepool area and asked how people will be encouraged to use public transport. The Mayor informed the Committee that all five LAs had been asked where their economic centres are to determine demand for public transport, so the 101 service model could be used elsewhere in future. He advised that responses had not been received. Members were encouraged to speak to their respective LAs in regard to this and to ask they respond to this call from the TVCA Transport team. The Mayor advised that the Teesport 101 bus service will eventually stand on its own and, in the long term, won't need a subsidy as it has been proven there is demand in that area. The importance of the call to each LA was emphasised with the 101 service being shown as an example of how services could become sustainable. The Committee agreed that bus providers need to re-evaluate, there is a need to push them to give value for what they do, and agreed people need to be encouraged to use public transport. The Mayor acknowledged the cuts in public transport and advised he would speak with Chancellor about that this afternoon.
- Have the flights to London made an impact on the Airport and is there a sense of trying to get flights back, as it is important to have flights to London?  
JG explained the Airport Managing Director has regular conversations with airlines, and this issue is high on the agenda but explained again that demand needs to be there for routes to be financially viable. It was confirmed that, when demand can be demonstrated, there are numerous airlines who would provide the London flight but without this demand the airport would not subsidise the route with large amounts of public money. The Mayor added it doesn't make sense to subsidise routes because when the subsidy ends, those routes fail.
- What strategy do we have in place to make Teesworks accessible?  
The Mayor reiterated that the 101 bus service is becoming sustainable without TVCA support from October as providers see benefit and value to it. Work commenced with private companies which has now resulted in a commitment with the bus provider to continue this service, so this will result in more frequent services which will build up over time. Members were again reminded of the importance of them to encourage their LAs to respond to the open call request.

**RESOLVED that: the content of the Group Update was noted.**



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| <p><b>OSC<br/>17/22</b></p> | <p><b>DRAFT FINANCE &amp; RESOURCES SUB COMMITTEE BUDGET 2023/2024 CONSULTATION REPORT</b></p> <p>In advance of the meeting, the Committee was provided with a Report detailing the findings from the Finance &amp; Resources Sub Committee.</p> <p>It was recommended that the Committee reviews, comments on and agrees the Report for submission at the next meeting of TVCA Cabinet on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.</p> <p>The Chair of the Sub Committee invited Member comments or questions on the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the process we have delivering a result that's useful to the organisation, considering the resources that go into it? Is there anything we can do to make the process work better to be of more value to TVCA?</li> </ul> <p>Gary Macdonald (GM), Group Director of Finance &amp; Resources, thanked members of the Sub Committee for their time and explained the two meetings involved a page turn of the budget report, guided by the Sub Committee's interest. It was explained that the process was established in 2018 to carry out a deep dive into each of the areas, given previous experience at these meetings of members having questions about non-financial areas with financial consequences. The Committee was assured that feedback on the content of the Budget was always useful from an officer perspective. The scope of the meetings is dependent on the Sub Committee and GM noted that there was value in having that dedicated time available to discuss the draft budget report, and that he would be guided by the Committee on how they see that working in the future. It was explained that the Report would go to January Cabinet if approved by Members of this Committee. The report would then form part of the budget report with the content considered by Cabinet as part of the review and approval process.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that: Members endorsed the Report for submission at the January Cabinet meeting.</b></p> |
|                             | <p><b>The Chair proposed a comfort break at this point and the Committee broke for 10 minutes from 11am to 11:10am</b></p>  |
| <p><b>OSC<br/>18/22</b></p> | <p><b>UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – BUSINESS UPDATE (UKSPF)</b></p> <p>A presentation was delivered to the Committee on the Business element of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund by Helen Kemp (HK), Group Director of Business &amp; Skills.</p> <p>The main elements of the presentation were covered as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery Planning</li> <li>• Communities &amp; Place</li> <li>• Supporting Local Businesses</li> <li>• People &amp; Skills (to bring back to future O&amp;S meeting)</li> <li>• Multiply</li> <li>• Rural England Prosperity Fund</li> <li>• Next Steps</li> </ul> <p>JG advised the Committee that there was a need to be mindful of the time, with the meeting scheduled to run to 12noon, and asked if it was worth moving the detailed</p>   |

business presentation that was scheduled to follow to the next meeting. The Committee agreed this was the best approach and that Martin Waters, Business Growth Manager at TVCA, would be invited to the next meeting.

The Committee was invited to comment or pose questions on the presentation. Members asked:

- Is every project that was previously funded by ESF stopped, with each needing to start from scratch?

HK noted that some programmes are ongoing with different endpoints so part of the aim of UKSPF is to make sure the programmes in place are needed.

Evaluations of those programmes are being compiled and feedback is being collated from LAs and delivery agents to ensure future support provision is what is needed and is having an impact. It was explained that some providers may be kept in some form and new delivery will take those elements forward, for example, some of the start-up work to help businesses secure finance.

- Are you worried that skills and expertise will be lost as programmes come to an end?

HK advised there is always a risk with time-bound programmes but would hope this wouldn't happen in the Tees Valley as work is being undertaken with partners.

- What was the amount of EU funding in the Tees Valley and what is the projected funding post-EU?

JG advised that ongoing funding was £28m a year and this is expected to become £25m a year. It was explained this is not 'like for like' as it is a transitional arrangement (over the next three years) but in terms of ongoing funding, it was confirmed there had been a reduction.

**RESOLVED that: Members noted the content of the presentation and that the further business update would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.**

**OSC  
19/22**

## **CRUSTACEAN DEATHS**

Emma Simson, Acting Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer, advised the Committee that this agenda item is a discussion on crustacean deaths and the reason for the discussion is surrounding the concerns around dredging at South Bank.

A presentation was delivered to the Committee by John McNicholas (JM), Teesworks Engineering & Programme Director, to bring members up to speed on the work on the South Bank Quay, covering the following areas:

- Project need
- Project scope
- Dredging requirements
- Licensing and consents
- Timelines
- Project status
- Summary

The Committee was invited to ask any questions on the content of the presentation, and the Chair advised the Committee that the Acting Chief Legal Officer would be monitoring questions to ensure questions that should be handled in the private session were not asked. Members asked:

- Is there an issue with pyridine?  
JG explained that the work taking place is based on the guidance from DEFRA and she can't comment on the science. Members were advised that DEFRA is looking at this and it was reiterated that the issues with crustacean deaths started 11 months before work began. The Committee was advised that a more detailed conversation on this could be had in the private session due to the ongoing legal action.
- Although there was no capital dredging going on at that time, was there other work on land that might have disturbed the marine environment, such as at South Bank Coke Ovens?  
JM advised that the work being carried out at South Bank at that time was earthworks for the SeAH development and these works didn't extend down as far as the ground water level. The Committee was informed that a precursor to the demolition of the coke ovens was full decontamination of the assets and work is now under way on the cleaning of cellars of the coke ovens, which finishes at the end of the month. JM further advised that coke ovens works did not commence until after the 2021 crustacean die-off incident. It was confirmed there had been nothing proven on hydraulic connectivity between the ground water in these two areas and the river, based on the technical consultant's analysis. Reassurance was given on the major earthworks, that work was not being carried out deeply enough to cause the contaminated elements to enter the river, and that the first phase dredging involved all excavated material being brought to shore, while excavations around the redundant piles in the riverbed were outside the mandated exclusion zones.
- Could any of the capital dredging be being done already?  
JM informed the Committee that PD Ports carries out routine maintenance dredging to maintains the prescribed navigation clearances within the river. It was noted that comment couldn't be made if anyone else is currently dredging and inadvertently causing any potential issues. It was confirmed that the main capital dredging is scheduled to begin in Quarter 1.
- If PD Ports dredge to -10.4m – will the capital dredge be deeper?  
Matt Greaves, (MG), (Principal Engineer, Water & Maritime, Haskoning) explained the various depths that the river is maintained to. It was advised that at the turning circle it's already maintained to -10.4m, so work is being undertaken to complete the circle on the other side to -10.4m and the berth pocket is going down to -15.6m.
- How can a ship requiring -15.6m turn in a -10.4m area?  
MG explained that vessel movements in the channel will be tidally restricted and there will be a difference in time between the period a ship can berth and when it can arrive/depart.
- When putting the piles in, when all the debris was taken out, did none of that go into the sea or maybe disturb something?  
JM noted that South Bank Quay is being built quite far inland from the water's edge. So there is a wide margin of land between the piling works and the river, with the material from the piles coming up onto land, being stored on land, and then re-engineered for use in the land-based works about 50m behind the quay wall. It was confirmed that nothing from the drilling for the piles ended up in the river and that these works did not commence until 2022, and that the first dredging started in September 2022. JG acknowledged that everyone has enormous sympathy for the fishermen impacted and the environmental issues associated with the die off but emphasised that this happened 11 months before the dredging started.

- When you did the investigations into the material present, was pyridine found?  
JM explained that as part of the MMO Marine Licence application process there is no requirement to test for pyridine and advised that the investigations and related sampling and testing undertaken in support of the Licence were in compliance with MMO requirements.
- Has the Mayor got any further insight into the independent expert panel being set up?  
The Mayor advised that he didn't know any more than what was already in the public domain.
- What if the report links the crustacean deaths to dredging and pyridine – is there a Plan B?  
JG explained that whatever the outcome, government guidance will be followed and confirmed there are alternative options, but these are time consuming and expensive and would probably mean contractual obligations wouldn't be met. However, it was confirmed that whatever the outcome, it will be abided by.
- All companies are struggling to get highly skilled workers so are there any issues in recruitment and do we know how many of those to be employed will live in the Tees Valley?  
JG explained that regarding skills, the main employer being engaged with is SeAH, which is already building its factory. The Committee was advised that the TVCA Skills team is working closely with SeAH on recruitment to ensure the right skills are being determined and the right people are being trained. The Teesworks Skills Academy is also working with the company so that by the time the factory is built the number of jobs for local people can be maximised.
- The crustacean deaths occurred before the capital dredging started and there was maintenance dredging taking place before that, so is that the cause of the die off?  
JG advised that she can't speak for anyone else, and any statements made refer to the dredging by South Tees Development Corporation (STDC) and not PD Ports. It was advised that for years, PD Ports has carried out this maintenance dredging on the river. At this point it was noted that if the discussion is to move into the possible causes of the die-off, this should be kept for the private session.
- Even if STDC are not the cause of the crustacean die offs, if it is an external agency, should we not be looking at that?  
JG explained that the number of Officer hours spent on this issue in the last few months is enormous and there is regular contact with DEFRA, that we trust the science and that the independent panel will hopefully report in the next few days. The Committee was advised there is nothing in the reports to suggest the work shouldn't continue and it was noted there are contractual obligations that need to be met in delivering the quay as well as new jobs to deliver. Members were assured that licences will continue to be conformed to and the advice from scientists adhered to. Members were advised that this discussion can continue but it would need to be in the private session.
- Who makes the decision on the environment against the jobs as to what is more important?  
JG explained that moving ahead with the development of the quay was a Cabinet-approved decision. The Committee was assured that if STDC was told to stop, another solution would need to be determined as the jobs and contractual obligations are of significant importance and this will have to be addressed. It was explained it was understood Sir Patrick Vallance has been advised to obtain a specific solution, because of the nature of the concerns.

- In spirit of transparency and preventing reputational damage, how much would it cost to test for pyridine?  
JG advised that STDC hasn't tested for pyridine, but DEFRA and the Environmental Agency have, and it was advised the cost of such tests are not known.

The Chair asked that any further questions would need to go into the private session, explaining that it was understood that Mayor Houchen had to leave at 12:30pm.

The Chair informed the Committee that there were questions which had been submitted in advance of the meeting from members of the public and responses were provided as follows:

- From where have you referenced evidence in the compiling of your report (*this was clarified with the requestee prior to the meeting as 'report' meaning the presentation for Item 9*)?  
JM advised that the presentation was compiled by STDC, Royal HaskoningDHV and Graham Construction.
- Do you have any concerns that the sediment to be removed from the south bank quay has not been tested for Pyridine. Taking into consideration Pyridine having been found by academics throughout the Tees and its lethal nature to crabs and humans if ingested?  
JM advised that the process undertaken to secure the MMO licence was shown in the presentation and work continues to operate in accordance with those licences.
- I understand STDC received specific funding from the government to remove COMAH status, has this money been spent, what has it been spent on and when will COMAH status be removed?  
GM explained that the removal of the COMAH status was linked to the demolition of the former Steelworks assets and that work is ongoing with the HSE (Health & Safety Executive) to remove this status in coming months. The specific budget referred to is for the decommissioning and the demolition of the Coke Oven Gas Main. It was noted that it was expected for all to be completed within this financial year.
- Originally it was stated that explosive demolition wouldn't be used on the South Tees site, why was it used?  
JM explained that the method of any demolition is determined by the specialist contractors with a wealth of experience in this field, with approval from the HSE.

It was suggested, and the Chair agreed, if the Independent Report is compiled and released before the March meeting, it may require another discussion subject to the report's content and conclusions.

**RESOLVED that: the content of the presentation was noted**

**A RESOLUTION WAS PROPOSED TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS & PUBLIC UNDER THE TERMS OF PARAGRAPH 1 AND PARAGRAPH 5 OF SCHEDULE 12a OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.**

Cllr Sue Jeffrey (SJ) objected to moving into a private session, suggesting that what was to be discussed should be in the presence of the public. The Acting Chief Legal Officer explained that certain matters could not be discussed in public due to ongoing legal issues

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|                             | <p>and discussing this publicly may affect the legal action. Members were asked if they agreed with the proposed objection. Members gave a show of hands and, in line with the TVCA Constitution, a majority decision was made with members not agreeing to pass the proposed resolution to move into private session. The Acting Chief Legal Officer advised members that if they were unable to pass the required resolution, the meeting could not move into private session and therefore the meeting would be brought to a close. The Chair closed the meeting.</p> |
| <p><b>OSC<br/>20/22</b></p> | <p><b>CRUSTACEAN DEATHS</b></p> <p>A report was circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting detailing the situation regarding mass crustacean die-offs along the North East coast and the subsequent dredging activity carried out on Teesworks 11 months after the crustacean deaths. This could not be discussed in private session as members did not pass the appropriate resolution to move into private session.</p>   |
| <p><b>OSC<br/>21/22</b></p> | <p><b>DATE &amp; TIME OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at 10am at the TVCA Offices.</p>  |

## Item 4

### Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/2023

#### Standing Items

- Declarations of Interest
- Minutes from the Previous Meeting
- Group Update
- Forward Plan
- Delegated Decisions
- Date, Time and Venue of the Next Meeting

| <b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>                    |              |  |
|---|--------------|--|
| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Venue</b> | <b>Item / Responsible Officer</b>  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2022                                | TVCA Offices | Cabinet Referral Decision of the Investment Plan Refresh   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2022                               | TVCA Offices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Chair and Vice Chair</li> <li>• Report of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee - Investment Plan Refresh Referral from Cabinet</li> <li>• Creative Place Update</li> <li>• Forward Plan</li> </ul> |
| <b>Finance and Resources Task and Finish Group Meetings</b> |              |  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2022                               | TVCA Offices | <i>Meeting 1: Draft Budget 2023/24 1<sup>st</sup> Consultation meeting (attended by Gary Macdonald, Group Director of Finance &amp; Resources)</i>   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022                              | TVCA Offices | <i>Meeting 2 (if required): Draft Budget 2023/24 2<sup>nd</sup> Consultation meeting (attended by Gary Macdonald, Group Director of Finance &amp; Resources)</i>   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2023                               | TVCA Offices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance &amp; Resources Sub Committee Budget 2023/2024 Consultation Report</li> <li>• Crustacean Deaths</li> <li>• UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Business Update (UKSPF)</li> </ul>                               |

|                               |                 |   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> March<br>2023 | TVCA<br>Offices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skills Update</li><li>• UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Business Update (UKSPF)</li><li>• Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee Annual Report</li></ul> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|



**AGENDA ITEM 5****REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY****OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2023****REPORT OF THE GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE****GROUP UPDATE****SUMMARY**

This report provides a general update on the key activities of the Combined Authority since the last Committee meeting, which are not covered in other reports to this meeting.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes the report.

**DETAIL****FREEPORT**

1. The Full Business Case has been approved by government and has been published on the Tees Valley Combined Authority website
2. Work has been completed to enable the CSO operator, Casper Shipping, to apply for the Freeport Special Procedure Authorisation. It has enabled Teesside Freeport to achieve another first for the region in delivering the first customs customer through the Freeport.
3. The Teesside Freeport-supported Centre for Digital Trade and Innovation to commence recruitment for several positions based at Teesside University to develop the main research Hub of the centre. In addition, the Institute of Export has agreed to support the new centre and is looking to recruit up to three additional roles who will be co-located at the university.
4. Six of the eight English Freeports have been approved, with East Midlands and Humber to reach this stage in Q1 2023. Two successful bids for Scottish Green Freeports at Firth of Forth and Cromarty Firth.

**TEESSIDE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

5. Teesside Airport has become the UK's first to be ready for new security rules coming into force in 2024 with the acquisition of a second state-of-the-art C3 security machine. This removes the requirement to take liquids and electronics out of cabin

luggage and will help further speed up the process during the summer 2023 season, which will see a doubling of flights to Palma and the introduction of the Antalya route.

6. The first export has left the airport's cargo handling facility following more than a dozen import movements in just two weeks. It is currently establishing itself as the key hub for the swift turnaround of urgent or last-minute goods.
7. In December Loganair cancelled its services from Teesside to Belfast City and Dublin, however the airport has secured a second service to Majorca with TUI for summer 2023. The airline will also be launching a new route - to Dalaman, Turkey - from the airport in 2024 off the back of a strong 2022 performance and forward bookings for 2023. Ryanair is also reporting strong forward bookings for the upcoming summer season.

## **TEES VALLEY BUSINESS**

8. The £826k Tees Valley Business Challenge pilot programme was funded through Government's Community Renewal Fund and ran from December 2021 to September 2022. The programme of support for Tees Valley SMEs was specifically aimed to level-up Tees Valley in terms of business density, business creation, business scaling, business productivity, business employment and skills. Support available was delivered through four core mechanisms: digital support; a programme of one-to-many support events and activities; a programme of support to smaller groups/cohorts and one-to-one support. 65 businesses signed up to the programme and scope of support identified. 40 businesses were also supported with grant offers to the value of £358,354, which will generate £47,185 private sector match.
9. More than £12million ERDF has been allocated to support Tees Valley SMEs' growth plans and job creation until June 2023. To date, 376 businesses have been supported with grant offers to the value of £7.6million, which will generate private sector match of £10.4million and is forecast to create 1,131 new jobs. In addition, there are 53 live referrals to the value of £1.7million and 33 applications currently in assessment to the value of £1.1million, which, if approved, will leave a balance of £1.5million.
10. The SMEs Energy Efficiency Scheme (SMEEs) is a £2.9million ERDF funded project that provides Tees Valley SMEs with energy efficiency audits & advice and capital grants for works undertaken to reduce emissions and lower energy consumption. To date 161 energy audits have been completed and 32 grants approved to the value of £742,429, which will generate £907,413 private sector match and achieve carbon savings of more than 1,060.10 tonnes. In addition, a further 9 energy audits are in the pipeline and 1 grant application is currently in assessment.
11. Made Smarter is a government backed initiative designed to improve the productivity of manufacturers through the adoption of Industrial Design Technologies (IDTs). Automation, robotics, sensor technology, IOT, 3D Printing, AI and VR are all proven catalysts of better business outcomes. Tees Valley Business is working in

collaboration with the North-East LEP (NELEP) to deliver the 2022/23 Made Smarter Programme. The £800k allocation for 2022/23 delivery is funded through BEIS. Currently we have 30 manufacturing businesses on the programme. The programme consists of completing an online diagnostic, accessing a digital showcase to explore all the technology available along with one to one digital specialist support and workshops to develop a digital roadmap. Additional grant support is available for access to an IDT specialist as well as the purchasing of new digital technologies and equipment.

## **EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS**

- 12 The Combined Authority continues to lead the local management of national skills funding, including Skills Bootcamps; a Wave 4 application for £4m of additional funding has now been approved by the Department for Education. This will ensure delivery will continue from April 2023. These provide short, bespoke employer-led training for both unemployed people and those in employment that wish to diversify or improve their skills with their employer's support. This will provide training routeways linked to future technical job roles.
- 13 Multiply, which launched in December 2022 has now had more than 500 Tees valley residents engage with the programme. Multiply provides soft skill development and innovative methods to engage people with low levels of numeracy to develop their functional number skills for life and work. The Combined Authority has secured £3.6m over a three-year period for this programme.
- 14 A programme of activity during this school term for our young people has been rolled out at the Teesworks Skills Academy on the Teesworks site. 30 school sessions are planned to raise awareness of the job opportunities being created on-site and the routes to take to gain careers within the sectors developing. Sessions to date have been well-received and feedback from schools is that we are changing the aspirations and ambitions of our young people by bringing this site to life.

## **CLEAN GROWTH AND INNOVATION**

- 15 The Tees Valley Industrial Cluster Decarbonisation Plan will be completed in March and the full report published shortly thereafter. The industrial group which has advised this work will continue to meet to ensure the plan is implemented.
- 16 Tees Valley's two housing retrofit programmes (Home Upgrade Grant - £3.2million and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) £4.5million) are due to complete by the end of March 2023. A £80m bid for SHDF Phase 2 in partnership with the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub and will be submitted.
- 17 Following the launch of the regions Net Zero Strategy at December Cabinet, work has started to map out the work plans to start implementation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 18 There are no financial implications to this report.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

19 There are no legal implications to this report.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

20 This report is an update and therefore is categorised as low risk.

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**AGENDA ITEM 6****REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY  
COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE****2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2023****OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT****SUMMARY**

This report summarises the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the period of July 2022 to June 2023.

Once agreed, this Report will be presented to Cabinet by the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee provide comment and agree the report for submission at the Annual General Meeting of TVCA Cabinet in June.

**DETAIL****THE COMMITTEE**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee consists of 15 members, 3 nominated from each Constituent Authority, with 15 substitute members. The Committee is required, as far as reasonably practical, to reflect the balance of political parties of the Constituent Authorities collectively.
2. The objective of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to scrutinise and support the decision-making of the Combined Authority and the Tees Valley Mayor.
3. This includes:
  - Monitoring the decisions or other actions taken by the Cabinet (or Officers exercising authority delegated by Cabinet either specifically, or as a consequence of the TVCA Constitution) or the Mayor.
  - Submitting reports and making recommendations for improvements or change;
  - Reviewing the Strategies and policies of the Combined Authority and holding the Mayor, other Cabinet members, and officers, to account for their delivery.
4. The Committee has the power to “call-in” for review or scrutiny, decisions made by the Combined Authority before they are implemented.

5. The Chair of the Committee for the period of July 2022 - June 2023 has been Councillor John Hobson, Middlesbrough Council and the Vice-Chair has been Councillor Sandra Smith, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council each holding these roles for the second successive year.
6. Following appointment, the Chair of the Committee met with the Tees Valley Mayor to discuss his attendance at future Committee meetings and it was agreed that the Mayor would attend future meetings where able.
7. The Committee has met 4 times during the municipal year.
8. All meetings held have been quorate meetings.
9. Both the Tees Valley Mayor and the Group Chief Executive have attended 2 meetings of the Committee during this municipal year.
10. The Monitoring Officer attends every meeting of the Committee.
11. Members have had the opportunity to attend a Statutory Members Induction session.
12. The Committee exercises its role to scrutinise the Combined Authority Budget setting process through a Task & Finish group format. The group met twice in December to examine the Combined Authority Budget for 2023/24 with both meetings attended by the Group Director of Finance & Resources.
13. The Group Chief Executive provides written updates of key activities undertaken by the Combined Authority in advance of each meeting and attends meetings to give a verbal update and answer any questions. There is also the facility for the Committee to provide written questions to the Group Chief Executive in advance of meetings.
14. The Committee has not utilised its power of “call-in”, in the period of July 2022 – June 2023.

## **2022-2023 WORK PROGRAMME**

15. The Committee have carried out their Overview and Scrutiny duties in some of the key areas of Combined Authority business:

- i. **Portfolio Updates:**

The Committee received a full update in each of the following Portfolio areas of Combined Authority business:

- **Transport**

A report and presentation were provided to the July Committee by Alan Weston, TVCA Transport Planning & Infrastructure Manager, detailing activity relating to Transport over the past year.

- **Creative Place**

A presentation was delivered at the October Committee meeting providing an update on the work on Creative Place covering the scope, the delivery to

date and that planned for the future. The Portfolio holder, Cllr Shane Moore, attended the meeting to answer questions and provide any further information where requested.

- **Business Growth**

A presentation was delivered at the January and March Committee meetings providing an update on the business element of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund by Helen Kemp, Group Director of Business & Skills and Martin Waters, Business Growth Manager at TVCA.

**ii. South Tees Development Corporation**

The Committee has received regular updates from the Chief Executive regarding the progress of the South Tees Development Corporation.

**iii. Referral from Cabinet: Investment Plan Refresh**

In July the TVCA Cabinet referred the decision to approve the Investment Plan Refresh to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for review. The Committee met in August and Members had the opportunity to ask questions on the decision, to the Tees Valley Mayor and Group Chief Executive. The Committee submitted a report to Cabinet for consideration at the October Cabinet meeting and this report was also published.

**iv. Crustacean Deaths**

At its October meeting, the Committee passed a motion that the Mayor and the CEO approach the Chair of the Parliamentary Select Committee and ask to be invited to give evidence in respect of the Inquiry into the causes of crustacean die off's and asked that the Mayor gave to the Scrutiny Committee his position on the cause and if there was any link to the dredging taking place. Both the Mayor and TVCA indicated their willingness to attend the Inquiry, however, the Chair of the Committee advised if there was no further data that the Mayor or TVCA could provide to support the Select Committee's findings, the time constraints of the Committee meant their attendance was not required. The Mayor and Group Chief Executive further attended the January 2023 Overview & Scrutiny Committee to discuss concerns around dredging at South Bank and a presentation was delivered by John McNicholas, Teesworks Engineering & Programme Director, to bring members up to speed on the work on the South Bank Quay. Members had the opportunity to ask questions.

**v. Budget**

The Committee continued to utilise the smaller "Finance and Resources Sub-Committee" task and finish group format to look at matters relating to the Budget and Financial aspects of TVCA.

Membership of this Sub-Committee consists of 5 Councillors representing 3 of the 5 Constituent Authorities. The Chair of the Sub-Committee is Councillor Sandra Smith of Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council.

Questions from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee members regarding the

budget for 2023-2024 were put forward to the Group Director of Finance and Resources at a meeting designated specifically for budget scrutiny. These meetings were attended also by the TVCA Assistant Director of Transport, and Infrastructure, the Head of Education, Employment and Skills and the Business Growth Manager, allowing questions to be answered in detail and further information provided where necessary.

A final report was provided to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at their January meeting and was subsequently submitted to Cabinet for review and consideration.

### **2023 - 2024 WORK PROGRAMME**

16. The work programme for 2023 – 2024 is yet to be agreed. A discussion on the priorities and work programme for these meetings will be taking place at the first meeting of the Committee following the TVCA AGM. A work programme for the year ahead will be drafted following this meeting.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

17. None

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

18. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee provides an important statutory role in contributing to the good governance and oversight of the Combined Authority on behalf of the Constituent Authorities and the public.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

19. Not Applicable

### **CONSULTATION**

20. Not Applicable

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**AGENDA ITEM 8****REPORT TO TVCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY****2nd March 2023****REPORT OF HEAD OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS****EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS UPDATE****SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on the activity to date and the planned activity for the area of Education, Employment and Skills. The report will provide updates on:

- Adult Education Budget
- Skills Bootcamps
- L3 Skills programme
- Careers Education
- Multiply programme
- Skills for Growth project
- Apprenticeship Grants for Businesses

The report also includes the proposed plans for launching the new People and Skills element of UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the TVCA Overview and Scrutiny Group members consider the information provided in the report and make comment on the information provided.

**DETAIL****Adult Education Budget**

1. The devolved Adult Education Budget continues to directly fund 31 Training providers, including Further Education Colleges, Local Authorities, and Independent Training providers from the private and voluntary sectors.
2. This budget is approximately £30m per annum and is confirmed by the Department of Education annually.
3. All providers submitted their end of year 21/22 data returns and funding claims. £27,613,423 was earned by the providers against an allocation of £30,375,382. This funding provided training for 42,408 enrolments on funded courses.
4. The devolution deal for this budget has enabled greater flexibility to be provided to providers to respond directly to local businesses skills needs by delivering training not previously funded by the national system. Two examples of this are Bespoke Employer Led Pilots (BELPs) and training for those in employment.
5. Job outcomes from BELPs are double those from traditional adult training. Over 5,000 enrolments were delivered by these. Fourteen new BELPs have been developed in the last year for the following sectors:

- HGV/Logistics
  - PCV Driver Training
  - Construction
  - Routeways to Demolition
  - Health and Care
  - Cleaning
  - Warehousing
  - Engineering
  - Industrial Painting
  - Digital Marketing
  - Telecommunications
  - Rail
  - Scaffolding
  - Hospitality and Catering
6. Demand for training for those in employment has continued to increase and as a result a decision was made to raise the wage threshold for those in work to access fully funded training. This was raised to £27,040 p.a.
  7. In 2022 it was agreed, following discussions with training providers and TVCA Cabinet to move from a transactional and performance penalty model of payment to an actual payment model for providers. This was implemented in January 2023. The Actual payment model will:
    - a. provide greater assurance and certainty that payment will be made timely to support delivery to all providers
    - b. reassure providers that no regular in year decisions will be made to stop payments linked to subjective performance tolerances
    - c. reduce impact on providers of in year reputation and financial risk
    - d. avoid significant end of year claw back
    - e. reduce providers need to stop and restart delivery due to suspended payments
    - f. reduce provider and TVCA administration e.g. suspending payment analysis and communication

This change will be monitored to ensure there are no unintended consequences.

### **Skills Bootcamps**

8. Skills bootcamps are a Department of Education initiative launched in 2020 to support more employed and unemployed people to access employer led training. These are similar to the TVCA developed BELPs but with more input and contribution, including financial contribution from employers. They provide training at level 3 (HNC or 3 A level equivalents), and above.
9. To date TVCA has secured £3.2m to engage providers and employers in this initiative. In 2022/23 eight of our existing training providers plan to deliver 50 different bootcamps in areas including digital, creative, technical, welding, advanced manufacturing, offshore renewables, Class 1 HGV, Construction including EV installation, Heat Pumps and Solar PV. In addition, TVCA has awarded contracts for Advanced Manufacturing in Bioscience, via a Direct Award and contracts for specialist provision including Welding, and Digital Telecommunications via requests for quote.

10. TVCA has just received notification of an award of £4m for 2023/24, to deliver Wave 4 Skills Bootcamps.

### **Level 3 Skills programme**

11. In 21/22 TVCA was awarded £2.1m to deliver defined and new Level 3 courses for adults. This offer is aimed at those adults aged 24+ who do not already have a level 3 qualification, or who are unemployed/in low wage to access an additional level 3 qualification.
12. This programme planned to deliver training to 1,493 Tees Valley residents. Demand has been lower than anticipated and training providers have not been able to attract the number of expected learners. TVCA is now supporting training providers to increase their marketing of these courses.
13. Close working with the Department of Education and our training providers will continue to ensure more people access this level of training. This is important so that we can be assured that our residents have the high-level skills required for future jobs that will be created across the Tees Valley.

### **Careers Education**

14. TVCA have continued to deliver a Careers Education programme for all schools and colleges educating 11–18-year-olds. This includes Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) schools.
15. TVCA secured £200k p.a. from the Department of Education's agency, the Careers Education Company to deliver the Careers Education Hub in Tees Valley.
16. The activity supported includes:
  - a. working with schools to develop their careers education plans and activities,
  - b. sponsor events,
  - c. engaging employers to support school activities,
  - d. providing teacher and career leader development programmes,
  - e. producing local labour market information to be used in school,
  - f. hosting a dedicated website that enables self-access to careers information,
  - g. bespoke activities for schools e.g. SEND activity; and
  - h. hosting a digital platform that enables schools and businesses to promote their careers activities and careers to pupils
17. TVCA also lead a Business Careers Group that has business representatives from priority and growth sectors to help shape future careers education, provide access to role models for young people, and engage more businesses from their networks to engage in schools.
18. Schools are measured against a defined set of eight careers benchmarks, known as the Gatsby Benchmarks. All schools and colleges are achieving more than 3 benchmarks. Tees Valley schools continue to perform above the national average against these benchmarks.
19. In response to the Education, Employment and Skills Advisory group held in September a small working group was set in place to consider how best to ensure that the new Careers Education programme was informed by schools and delivered real impact for pupils in future. The group included representatives from Further Education, Secondary School, Local Authority and TVCA. The conclusions reached included the need to engage more with headteachers and school leadership teams to define the school commitment and requirements for careers education support. A meeting with Stockton headteachers was held to develop this work further. A further meeting that has invited all secondary school headteachers to meet to discuss future careers education with Mayor Houchen was held in February.
20. Future activity will include:

- More focused on hands-on work-related activities for pupils
  - More direct linkages to employers and their workplaces
  - Industry placements and visits for teachers and careers leaders
  - Improved labour market information that highlighted local jobs and routeways to achieve them, including routeways for emerging sectors e.g. hydrogen production
  - Better access and utilisation of resources for teaching careers education
  - Tailored support to schools as opposed to a one size fits all approach to employer engagement
  - Careers education to be better linked to the curriculum and extracurricular activities
  - More support with interviews, CV writing and getting young people work ready
  - Careers advice and staffing (recruitment is an issue)
  - Future careers activity - more problem-solving projects- core skills required
21. The Teesworks Education pilot programme commenced in January and will run until March 2023. The pilot provides an opportunity for pupils to tour the site and showcases the future jobs that will be created and provide greater information on the types of jobs linked to the new industries, including clean energy and Net Zero. At the end of January 394 students had accessed this programme. Feedback from those attending has been excellent, but secondary schools continue to struggle to enable external visits of this type, despite the costs being covered.
22. The Big Big Project continues to be in demand and provides a business led competitive challenge programme for schools. This year's challenge is set around Net Zero and 13 schools have entered the competition. Round 1 of the challenge has now taken place with 11 schools moving into round 2. Businesses are engaged to support the pupil teams in the challenge and provide mentoring support.

## **Multiply programme**

### **Year 1 Progress**

23. The Year 1 Investment Plan for the Tees Valley focusses on five interventions from the menu that was set out in the DfE Multiply Prospectus and the submitted Investment Plan.

A summary of progress against each of the interventions is set out below.

| Intervention  | Lead provider              | Target                      | Performance as at Dec 2022 |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| First steps confidence with numbers                   | Hartlepool Borough Council | 886 engaged                 | 315 engaged                |
|   |                            | 200 qualifications achieved | TBC                        |
| Partnership delivery to engage those hardest to reach | Hartlepool Borough Council | 300 engaged                 | 107                        |
|   |                            | 200 in substantive learning | TBC                        |
|   |                            | 200 qualifications achieved | TBC                        |

|  |   |                             |     |
|--|---|-----------------------------|-----|
| Community Development Workers                                      | Hartlepool Borough Council  | N/A                         | 422 |
| Courses to enable progression to a Functional Skills Qualification | Middlesbrough college, Darlington college, New College Durham, Learning Curve Group, Eden Training, Communicators, Peopleplus, J and K Training | 250 engaged in learning     | 125 |
|  |   | 250 employees engaged       | TBC |
|  |   | 200 qualifications achieved | 58  |
| Publicity campaign   | TVCA and all providers  | 1750 engaged                | 547 |

24. Despite a late start to the programme delivery is progressing well in most areas. Four providers had not commenced delivery in December but will do so from January 2023 and so performance is expected to rise significantly from January 2023. In December, Hartlepool Borough Council launched a funding opportunity to the VCSE organisations across the Tees Valley with a closing date of mid-January. Approximately 16 applications have been received and these have now been appraised and approved for funding. The delivery of these activities commenced at the end of January 2023.
25. The Tees Valley Combined Authority has developed an intensive programme of marketing and promotion of the Multiply Programme up to the 31 March 2023. This went live on 31 January 2023 and includes:
- Radio campaign (TFM and Capital)
  - Bus shelter advertising and competition
  - Advertising on buses
  - Posters / Billboards
  - Digital displays
  - Local press promotion (Northern Echo, Evening Gazette and Hartlepool Mail)

## Year 2 Multiply Investment Plan

26. It is a requirement from the Department for Education for all Multiply funded authorities to submit an updated year 2 Investment Plan. This provided an opportunity to make any changes to the Investment Plan that was submitted in June 2022. Opportunity for growth in Year 2 will be confirmed by DfE later in the year. The deadline for submission was the end of January 2023.
27. There are no substantive changes from the plan submitted in June 2022. The Year 2 Investment Plan requested is in line with the allocation of £1,266,847 to deliver activity to engage 2570 adults, and 1,000 qualifications achieved.

## Skills for Business Growth

28. This European Social Funded project delivers support to small and medium sized businesses to assess their workforce and skills needs. The project undertakes skills needs analysis and sources training to address their needs.
29. The project has generated outputs and results as follows:

- 739 Expressions of Interest of which 310 have completed Training Needs Analysis
  - 954 training interventions have commenced for 806 participants; delivered through 43 Training providers with TVCA contracted providers delivering 173 AEB qualifications.
  - Leadership and Management, Health & Safety and Digital Marketing are the highest requested training from employers.
  - Identified 382 Apprenticeship opportunities of which 79% are upskilling existing employees and 21% new employees. 78 apprentices have commenced employment in areas including Scaffolding, Business Administration, Digital marketing, Fire Emergency, Plastering, Senior Leader (MBA).
  - Highest engagement from priority sectors continues to be Construction, followed by Advanced Manufacturing, Education and then Culture and Leisure.
30. Our project partner Teesside University provide the research and evaluation element of the programme and are delivering business engagement events for priority sectors. To date five events have taken place for Construction; Digital & Creative; Advanced Manufacturing, Business and Professional Services and Culture and Leisure. A Life Sciences sector event is planned for February 2023.

### **Apprenticeships**

#### **31. Apprenticeship Grant**

32. Since February 2019 and the introduction of the Apprenticeship Support Grant TVCA has supported 533 apprenticeship opportunities with 429 Tees Valley SMEs. This grant provides up to £3,000 for businesses from priority sectors and £500 to businesses from non-priority sectors.
33. National Apprenticeship Week took place in February. TVCA hosted a panel discussion to explore the challenges faced by businesses and training providers to create and support apprenticeships. The debate also included discussion on what support could be helpful to support this work. A link to the recorded event is available here: <https://youtu.be/0DuzXpicypU>
34. TVCA also promoted the national campaign and local vacancies.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)**

35. TVCA is undertaking the lead accountable body role for the UKSPF. The People and Skills theme of the plan has developed a response to the prospectus provided by Government.
36. The People and Skills theme has identified £4.8m in the overall Investment Plan and the priority is to assist those who are economically inactive move towards the labour market or into work. There are 106,500 people who are economically inactive in Tees Valley and 29,000 of those wish to gain work. Economically Inactive is a classification used to describe a complex customer group, aged 16-64, and includes those who are short and long-term sick and not immediately available for work, carers, retired people, and students. Many have been out of work and economically inactive for some time.
37. It is proposed that an Open Call will be launched in March 2023 for providers to apply for funding to deliver support to this customer group, the support will include providing a wraparound tailored and personalised careers and employment activities. It is anticipated that delivery will commence in June 2023.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

38. There are no direct financial implications from this report. The delivery items listed are approved and managed utilising the Combined Authorities agreed processes for funding award, monitoring and compliance of revenue funding.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

39. N/A

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

40. This Education, Employment and Skills update report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION**

41. Items and activities listed in report are regularly reported and discussed at the Education, Employment and Skills Advisory Group, Tees Valley Management Group and Tees Valley Chief Executives.

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REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2023

**DELEGATED DECISIONS JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2023**

**SUMMARY**

The table below shows the Delegated Decisions signed off by the Combined Authority between January 2023 and February 2023.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee note the table below.

**DETAIL**

1. The table below shows the Delegated Decisions signed off by the Combined Authority between January 2023 and February 2023:

| Title  | Amount     | Date signed | Key Decision |
|--|------------|-------------|--------------|
| <p><b>Westfield Road Brownfield Housing Fund</b></p> <p>In July 2020, MHCLG confirmed an allocation of £19.3m to Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to support the development and delivery of at least 1,000 homes on brownfield sites in Tees Valley over the Parliamentary term 2020-2025. The scheme is referred to as the Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF). An eligible business case for the Westdale Road, Thornaby scheme sought entry into the programme with a request of £933,991 from the total £19,300,000 available funds. Following successful appraisal in line with the Assurance Framework the business case was approved.</p> | £933,991   | 10/01/2023  | No           |
| <p><b>UTMC Phase 2</b></p> <p>As part of the Integrated Transport Programme, Cabinet approved an investment into the development of the Urban Traffic Management Control (UTMC) system and a Full Business Case was drafted. The UTMC system provides short term opportunities to improve the movement of traffic across the Tees Valley, thereby reducing congestion,</p>   | £3,498,083 | 06/01/2023  | No           |



| Title   | Amount | Date signed | Key Decision |
|---|--------|-------------|--------------|
| <p>journey times and emissions. It also offers a longer-term opportunity to move towards a fully connected transport system. In line with the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework, the allocation to the UTMC programme was subject to the development of a full business case and appraisal. The appraisal of the business case has been completed and is recommended for sign off, with conditions. Final sign off was delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Tees Valley Management Group, Section 73 Officer and the Monitoring Officer. This delegated decision commits funds of £3,498,083 to Phases 1 &amp; 2 of the UTMC programme.</p> |        |             |              |

2. All key decisions are sent to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee within 2 days of being made. All other delegated decisions are provided for information at the next scheduled Committee meeting.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The report derives from the Constitution and Assurance Framework for the Combined Authority, which have embedded within them the statutory financial regulations.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4. The Report derives from the Constitution and the Assurance Framework for the Combined Authority which sets out the appropriate statutory framework and is legally binding.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

5. The report is categorised as low risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

### **CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION**

6. Not Applicable

### **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

7. Not Applicable

### **LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

8. Not Applicable

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