

These minutes are in draft form until approved at the next Committee meeting and are therefore subject to amendments.

TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Cavendish House, Stockton-On-Tees, TS17 6QY

Thursday 19th July 2018 at 2.00pm

MEETING

ATTENDEES

Members

Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC
Cllr Derrick Brown	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC
Cllr Matt Vickers	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC
Cllr Ian Haszeldine	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Cllr Heather Scott OBE	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Cllr Sonia Kane	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Cllr Matthew Storey	Middleborough Borough Council	MBC
Cllr Vic Walkington	Middleborough Borough Council	MBC
Cllr Glyn Nightingale	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Cllr Phillip Thompson	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Cllr Mike McLaughlin	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC

Apologies for absence

Cllr Stephen Akers-Belcher	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Cllr Rob Cook	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Cllr Jean Sharrocks	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC

Officers

John Hart	Governance & Scrutiny Officer	TVCA
Julie Gilhespie	Interim Managing Director	TVCA
Craig Peacock	Marketing Manager	TVCA
Linda Edworthy	Strategy Director	TVCA

Other Attendees

Mayor Ben Houchen	Tees Valley Mayor	TVCA
Joan Stevens	Scrutiny Officer	HBC
Cameron Brown	Special Advisor to the Mayor	TVCA

OSC 10/18	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for interest were received from Councillors Ackers-Belcher, Cook and Sharrocks.	
OSC 11/18	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no interests declared	
OSC 12/18	MINUTES The minutes of the meeting on 7 th June 2018 were agreed and signed as a correct record. John Hart, Governance and Scrutiny Officer, updated members on matters arising from the previous meeting, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on minutes of the Educational Improvement Board, which are still awaiting clearance from the Department of Education. • The appointment of Tees Valley Combined Authority Head of Housing & Communities Martin Waters as Interim Head of Finance pending the appointment of a new permanent Managing Director. 	
OSC 13/18	PORTFOLIO UPDATE: MAYOR BEN HOUCHEN The Mayor of the Tees Valley provided members with a verbal update of his recent activities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains: The Mayor described investment in Darlington Station as a “priority”, with a business case for funding currently being assessed by the Department for Transport. He stated his belief that the Combined Authority should allocate in the region of £25m from the Transforming Cities Fund to the project with the aspiration of increasing capacity on the East Coast Mainline and allowing 8 trains an hour to run between Saltburn and Darlington. The Mayor also updated members that £2.5m of Combined Authority funding had been committed to improvements at Middleborough Station which had been matched with £2m of funding from Network Rail. • Roads: Business Cases are currently being considered by the Department for Transport for a new Tees Crossing and a new Darlington Link Road. • Buses: A feasibility study has been commissioned into bus franchising, with the Mayor lobbying bus companies for enhanced services as a “short term solution”. • South Tees Development Corporation: The Mayor announced that he would next week be meeting with the Chancellor of the 	

Exchequer to discuss the Business Case for the site. He reported that more than 100 investors had now expressed an interest in the site.

- Durham Tees Valley Airport: The Mayor updated the committee that negotiations were continuing with Peel Holdings and a third party, but Non-Disclosure Agreements prevented him from going into further details at this time.
- Investment: The Mayor reported that since his election the Combined Authority had successfully secured £210m of investment from HM Government in addition to funding secured through the Tees Valley devolution deal.

The Chair asked the Mayor if all railway stations in the Tees Valley were being evaluated for investment, particular investment which would enhance the accessibility of these stations to those with restricted mobility. The Mayor stated that he recognised the importance of these stations and increasing accessibility, but also the need to focus initially on “huge transformational hubs”.

Cllr Thompson asked the Mayor how he would ensure that the infrastructure of the SDTC Site area was appropriate for the envisaged development. The Mayor stated that this was set out on the Site Masterplan.

Cllr Scott requested that the Mayor update the Committee on how agreement in principle had been reached with the Thai Banks with regards to legal control of the former SSI site. The Mayor stated that this had been a complex process during which he had been grateful for the support of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that he hoped that legal control of the site would be secured by the end of the year.

Cllr McLaughlin asked the Mayor to provide the committee with his thoughts on the “Chequers deal”, the government’s recently announced Brexit proposals, and in particular the potential impact on plans for the creation of a Freeport on Teesside. The Mayor stated his belief that a Freeport on the model currently being envisaged would not be possible within the Single Market or a Customs Union, but that the government’s White Paper was “not detailed enough” on this matter and subject to significant change as a result of negotiations with the European Union. Cllr McLaughlin asked if the Mayor was aware of any businesses threatening to leave the Tees Valley following Brexit. The Mayor stated that he was not.

Cllr Storey asked the Mayor to comment on a recent report from the Northern Housing Consortium which stated that the development of a new Garden Village would be “unnecessary” on the basis of existing land allocation. The Mayor stated that he had not seen the research but that in his view the allocation of land for housing does not necessarily mean that a housing development would be viable on the land.

The Vice Chair requested that legal advice provided to the Mayor with regards to the ownership of Durham Tees Valley Airport be made available to the committee. The Mayor undertook to seek guidance on this matter.

	<p>The Vice Chair asked the Mayor what support could be offered to Tees Valley town centres in light of recent retail closures. The Mayor stated that it was the responsible of individual authorities to bring forward “transformative plans” but that the Combined Authority would add value where possible.</p> <p>Cllr Storey asked the Mayor to update the committee on his efforts to secure protected status for the Parmo. The Mayor stated that work was progressing as this was a pledge he was elected on.</p>	
OSC 14/18	<p>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY STUDY: DIVERSITY IN THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY</p> <p>John Hart, Governance and Scrutiny Officer updated members on the proposed methodology for the study and the result of initial investigations. Member agreed to progress with the study as outlined.</p>	
OSC 15/18	<p>ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR</p> <p>Julie Gilhespie, Interim Managing Director, updated members on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of the Combined Authority’s Annual Financial Statements, to be completed by 31st of July 2018. • The commencement of a Strategic Prioritisation Exercise between the Combined Authority and its Constituent Local Authorities. • Progress of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the Combined Authority. Committee members requested that they be provided with any papers relating to this work being presented to the Tees Valley Cabinet. <p>Cllr Kane asked the Interim Managing Director is she could update the committee on the process recruitment of a permanent Managing Director. Julie Gilhespie stated that as a potential applicant she was not party to these decisions.</p>	
OSC 16/18	<p>FORWARD PLAN</p> <p>A verbal update about pre-planned committee appearances from portfolio holders for the coming civic year was provided by John Hart, Governance and Scrutiny Officer.</p> <p>The Vice Chair updated the Committee on future plans for scrutiny of the Combined Authority’s budget and expenses to be carried out by a Task and Finish group, with operational arrangements to be formalised at a meeting between himself and officers on the 21st of August 2018.</p>	
OSC 17/18	<p>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</p> <p>13th September 2018 at 10.00am</p>	