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**TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 10.30pm**

**MEETING**

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ATTENDEES

Members

Cllr Phil Dennis (Chair)	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC
Cllr Heather Scott (VC)	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Cllr Ian Haszeldine	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Cllr Sonia Kane	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Cllr Jean Sharrocks	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC
Cllr Philip Thomson	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Cllr Derrick Brown	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC
Cllr Bob Norton	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Cllr Norma Stephenson	Stockton On Tees Borough Council	SBC

Apologies for absence

Cllr Glyn Nightingale	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Cllr Kaylee Sirs	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Cllr Denise Rooney	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC
Cllr Stephen Akers-Belcher	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Cllr Jon Rathmell	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC

Officers

Andrew Lewis	Managing Director	TVCA
Mark Wilson	Head Of Transport	TVCA
Sharon Jones	Scrutiny Officer	TVCA

Also in Attendance

Ian Williams	Director of Economic Growth	DBC
Joan Stevens	Scrutiny Officer	HBC

**OSC 33/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no interests declared.

**OSC 34/17 MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2017.

Resolved that the minutes be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**OSC 35/17 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair raised the topic of Quorum for meetings, specifically that from May onwards Quorum will be 10 members with four of the five Authorities represented. The Committee does not allow for substitutes and therefore it is important that moving forward attendance at the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny meetings is prioritised wherever possible.

The Chair asked for views on how the overview and scrutiny carried out by this Committee is reported back in to the Constituent Authorities. A discussion took place around this topic. It was agreed that a mechanism for feedback is required but that this would depend on the arrangements in place within each council.

Resolved that a method of reporting the work of Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny to the five Constituent Authorities is given further consideration

**OSC 36/17 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The Managing Director gave an update regarding the following items:

- The Combined authority Investment Plan has now been published. The plan details the financial resources available to the Combined Authority for the next five years as well as details of the priorities and commitments made across the Tees Valley region.
- A Culture and Tourism Investment Programme has now been launched. The aim of the programme is to encourage and promote tourism and culture within the Tees Valley using devolution and development funds. A partnership coordinated by the Combined Authority was also successful in securing designation and funding through the Arts Council/Historic England Great Places scheme.
- The Business Compass Programme has been successfully extended. The service is now being delivered by BE Group on behalf of the Combined Authority. Business Compass uses European Regional Development Funding to support business growth across the region.

- Appointments have been made to fill the vacancies that were available on the LEP Board
- The Tees Valley had been designated as an Assisted Area 'A' by the European Commission in agreement with the UK Government. This means an enhanced level of support can now be made available for eligible businesses and companies undertaking investment projects which will lead to sustainable growth and the creation of new employment.
- Although we are now in a period of Purdah, the Combined Authority will continue to raise awareness of the upcoming Mayoral elections via social media, radio interviews etc. It is important that the people of the Tees Valley are made aware of the elections and are encouraged to cast their vote.

A discussion took place regarding staffing within the Combined Authority. It was noted that there was recruitment of additional staff members and an increased staffing budget. The Committee would want assurance that roles do not duplicate or compete with positions in the individual Local Authorities.

Resolved that the update be noted and that:

1. The organisational chart for the Combined Authority be sent to members
2. The organisational structure for the Combined Authority be added to the agenda for a future meeting for the Committee to look at in more detail

**OSC  
37/17**

### **SCRUTINY SEMINAR FEEDBACK**

Councillor Heather Scott and Councillor Derrick Brown gave feedback on a Scrutiny Seminar they recently attended in Manchester which was specifically for those councillors and officers involved in Combined Authority Scrutiny.

Resolved that the feedback be noted

**OSC  
38/17**

### **SOUTH TEES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The Consultation period for the South Tees development Corporation closed on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017. A full report detailing a summary of the responses received and the next steps in establishing the Corporation, was attached for consideration by the Committee. The Committee were invited to endorse the proposal that the South Tees Development Corporation is progressed as a Mayoral Development Corporation.

The consultation responses supported the proposal to establish the South Development Corporation. Following the consultation there have been some changes made to the initial proposal which were highlighted for the Committee to note:

- The area covered by the South Tees Development Corporation has been extended slightly to include the area of Coatham Marshes. This land is currently owned by Tata Steel and by including this area it will mean that all Tata steel owned land is included within the boundary of the Corporation. Coatham Marshes is currently managed by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust who have confirmed their support for this area to be included
- Planning powers for the Corporation will be retained by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council. Redcar and Cleveland Council's planning function has considerable experience with complex industrial sites, which would be applied in close partnership with the Development Corporation. It was therefore agreed not to seek planning powers for the Corporation at this stage.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions or make comment around the consultation report. Discussion took place around the following topics:-

- The financial Implications and liabilities associated with the SSI sites were raised as a concern. It was explained that the financial responsibilities for the site fall to central government and the creation of a South Tees Development Corporation, which includes sites owned by SSI, does not in any way constitute a transfer of risk or liabilities for those sites. Members reinforced the need for government to meet its commitments to the site.
- A South Tees Development Corporation Constitution is currently being written, this will ensure effective transparency in decision making with appropriate checks and balances in place. This should be ready to go to the Combined Authority Board meeting in May for approval
- The Committee commended the decision to keep the planning powers with Redcar & Cleveland council and advised that this is something they would wish to see duplicated for any future Mayoral Development Corporations that may be created within the Tees Valley area.
- Questions were raised about the membership of the Board for the Corporation. The Managing Director explained that the current board is in shadow form and once the Corporation is formally created a new board will be appointed via an open and compliant process.

Resolved that the Committee endorse the proposal that the South Tees Development Corporation is progressed as a Mayoral Development Corporation.

**OSC  
39/17**      **TRANSPORT**

Mark Wilson, Head of Transport for the Tees Valley Combined Authority, delivered a presentation giving an overview of transport priorities within the Tees Valley.

Discussion took place around a number of areas highlighted within the presentation. It was agreed that as transport is such a wide ranging topic that more in depth information will be required by the Committee and a future meeting can be dedicated to this subject.

Resolved that Transport be added to a future meeting agenda

**OSC  
32/17**      **FORWARD PLAN**

Consideration was given to the O&S forward plan

It was explained to the Committee that the Combined Authority will shortly be seeking appointments to their committees from the Local Authorities. As a requirement of the legislation, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to reflect the party political balance of the constituent authorities, taken as a whole across the Tees Valley. The application of the agreed procedure to determine political balance, set out in the Combined Authority's constitution, may require some changes to the membership of the Committee which will be communicated to the individual authorities.

Resolved that the O&S forward plan be noted

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting to be held in Stockton on 16<sup>th</sup> May was noted