

30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

## REPORT OF THE ACTING MONITORING OFFICER

### GOVERNANCE AND APPOINTMENTS

#### SUMMARY

This report details a number of items for agreement and confirmation by the Combined Authority Cabinet at its Annual General Meeting (AGM).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet:

- i. agrees the appointments as set out at Appendix 1;
- ii. agrees the members' allowances scheme for 2023-24 at Appendix 2;
- iii. notes (a) the approval of the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting of 17th March 2023 and (b) that the Acting Monitoring Officer will review the Constitution in time for the next TVCA Cabinet meeting.

#### DETAIL

1. There are a number of items of business that the Combined Authority Cabinet is required to confirm at the AGM, and these are set out below.

#### Appointments

2. As required by the Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution, it is recommended that Cabinet agree a number of appointments to its statutory committees for the municipal year 2023-24. The Appointments Schedule at Appendix 1 details nominations to the statutory committees. It also details the proposed make-up of non-statutory/advisory Board appointments, external appointments, and statutory officers.
3. In summary, the following statutory appointments are being made:
  - **Deputy Mayor** – under the TVCA Constitution, the role of Deputy Mayor circulates annually amongst the Council Leaders. In line with this rotation, Councillor Stephen Harker, Leader of Darlington Borough Council, is nominated as the Deputy Mayor for the 2023-24 municipal year.
  - **Cabinet** – the Cabinet is the decision-making body for the Combined Authority. The Tees Valley Mayor chairs the Cabinet, made up of the five Constituent Authority Leaders, and the Chair of the Business Board as a non-voting member.

- **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** – this statutory committee reviews the policies and operations of the Combined Authority, ensuring effective democratic scrutiny of decisions. Members have been appointed by each of the constituent authorities, on the basis of political balance across the Tees Valley as required by legislation and set out in the Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution.
  - **Transport Committee** – this statutory committee reviews transport strategy and policies of the Combined Authority and makes recommendations to Cabinet. The Committee is Chaired by the Portfolio holder for Transport & Infrastructure. Members are drawn from each of the constituent authorities and are the executive member with transport responsibilities from each of those authorities.
  - **Audit and Governance Committee** – this statutory committee assures sound governance and financial management of the Combined Authority. Members have been appointed from each constituent authority, on the basis of political balance, as required by legislation and detailed in the constitution, plus up to 5 independent members.
  - **South Tees Development Corporation Board** – this Board guides and oversees delivery of the key objectives of the South Tees Development Corporation (STDC) as set out in its Constitution. Appointments to this Board are approved by the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet, as required by the Constitution. Appointments to the Board are made in accordance with the South Tees Development Corporation Board for a fixed term of no more than 4 years to align with the term of office of the Tees Valley Mayor. This report seeks approval of the appointment to the Board as detailed in Appendix 1.
  - **Hartlepool Development Corporation Board** – is responsible for delivering the agreed economic development and regeneration functions at the specified sites within Hartlepool as set out in its Constitution. In accordance with the Development Corporation Constitution, appointments to the Board were approved by the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet at its meeting on 28 October 2022. In accordance with the constitution the appointment of Members is 2 years. This report seeks approval of the appointment to the Board as detailed in Appendix 1.
  - **Middlesbrough Development Corporation Board** – is responsible for the agreed development and regeneration functions limited to the specified area of land at Middlesbrough. Appointments to this Board are approved by the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet, as required by the Constitution. In accordance with the Development Corporation Constitution, appointments to the Board were approved by the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet at its meeting on 28 October 2022. In accordance with the constitution the term appointment of Members is 2 years. This report seeks approval of the appointment to the Board as detailed in Appendix 1.
  - **Teesside Freeport Board** – this Board makes recommendations to Cabinet on Freeport strategy and policies, reviews Freeport services, ensures compliance with Freeport legislation and co-ordinates the interests of landowners and other key stakeholders. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution provides that the Tees Valley Mayor will chair the Board, with the other members appointed by Cabinet on the recommendation of the Mayor.
4. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee and the Vice Chair of the Transport Committee will be brought forward to a future Cabinet meeting, once nominations have been received and agreed following their next respective meetings.

#### Other non-statutory/advisory groups:

- **Education, Employment and Skills Advisory Group**– this group brings together partners to provide strategic oversight on policies improving educational outcomes, enhancing skills and helping people into work.

- **UKSPF Local Partnership Group** – This group supports TVCA to develop a UKSPF Investment Plan. It provides advice on strategic fit and deliverability for UKSPF Investment Proposals and forms part of the TVCA formal governance and accountability arrangements for the operation of UKSPF in the Tees Valley.
- **Transport Advisory Group** – this group brings together officers and partners with responsibilities for the Tees Valley's transport infrastructure.
- **Creative Place Advisory Group** comprises independent sector representatives from the region's cultural industries and visitor economy sectors, along with senior officers from the five local authorities, to advise the Combined Authority on its approach to supporting growth in the creative and visitor economies.

## The Business Board

5. Progress has been made on the implementation of the approved Tees Valley LEP Integration Plan which is detailed in a substantive agenda item entitled Local Enterprise Partnership Update.

## Appointments to External Bodies

6. The appointment schedule also proposes Tees Valley representation on a small number of external bodies.

## Officer Groups

7. The Combined Authority supports a range of officer groups which ensure coordination between the authority and its constituent councils. The arrangements for officer coordination are continually reviewed to ensure that effective communication and close partnership arrangements are maintained between officers on all aspects of the Combined Authority's responsibilities.

## Minutes of Previous Cabinet

8. The Minutes Cabinet meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023 have, in accordance with the Constitution, been approved by the former Cabinet.

## Members Allowances Scheme

9. Members' travel and subsistence allowances for the year 2023-24 is detailed in Appendix 2.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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



## RISK ASSESSMENT

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

## CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION

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

## EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

14. Cabinet publicly committed to achieving a 50/50 gender balance on the LEP and to increasing its overall diversity by 2023. This was achieved in 2021.

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