



AGENDA ITEM 5

REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY  
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE

30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 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.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet notes the report.

### 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 3 of the 4 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. TVCA approached the Select Committee as requested, but they declined the offer to call TVCA to give evidence on the basis that it is not qualified to provide scientific testimony. 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. At its last Committee meeting of the civic year, it was noted that there had been occasions where the Committee were unable to undertake the full breadth of its scrutiny function due to time restraints. As a result, the Committee will be meeting in advance of its first meeting of the new civic year, to consider the priorities and content for presentation at the June Committee for its 2023-24 Work Programme and Forward Plan.

## 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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