

## **Tees Valley Business Board**

### **Terms of Reference**

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#### **Purpose**

Tees Valley Business Board is the principal forum for collaboration between the public and private sectors, for improving the economy of the Tees Valley.

#### **Responsibilities**

The Tees Valley Business Board will:

- Influence strategy on behalf of the local business community within the Combined Authority area.
- Challenge and influence Combined Authority priorities and policy and programme development.
- Influence and help determine Combined Authority investment priorities.
- Develop a clear local plan for business growth, with a particular emphasis on SMEs, industrial clusters, inward investment, and international trade.
- Collaborate with and support the Combined Authority officers on programme and policy development.
- Evaluate strategy implementation.

#### **Role of members**

The role of members is to be:

- Independent – providing specialist, business-led insights to critically influence, shape and review economic development activity in Tees Valley.
- Inclusive and Diverse - providing a representative voice for all businesses in Tees Valley.
- Innovative – developing innovative, business-led solutions to address challenges and opportunities, and deliver transformative change for the Tees Valley economy.
- Intelligence Led – providing local business insights; drawing on data and intelligence; commissioning bespoke research and evaluation as required – to drive economic growth activity and maximise impact.
- Integrated – providing a clear voice for business, strategic connectivity and oversight across the business growth agenda, whilst working collaboratively and effectively with the five Tees valley Local Authorities and the Combined Authority.

#### **Membership**

The membership of the Tees Valley Business Board comprises:

- Well-networked representatives from the local business community, aligned, where possible, to the economic priorities outlined in the Combined Authority strategic documents.

Members are expected to attend Business Board meetings and Strategic Advisory groups.

The term of office for all members of the Tees Valley Business Board shall be two years extendable by one further term of two years, unless otherwise agreed by the Cabinet.

## **Recruitment**

Recruitment will be subject to an open and transparent process in line with established Combined Authority constitutional procedures and with significant engagement.

## **Role of group members**

Tees Valley Business Board members will:

- Act as advocates for and influence strategy on behalf of the local business community within the Combined Authority.
- Act as Ambassadors for Tees Valley and its businesses (locally, nationally, and internationally).
- Challenge and influence Combined Authority priorities and policy and programme development.
- Influence and help determine Combined Authority investment priorities.
- Develop a clear local plan for business growth, with a particular emphasis on SMEs, inward investment and international trade.
- Collaborate with and support Combined Authority officers on policy and programme development through appropriate channels such as bodies within the Combined Authority governance structure (including where agreed, the Lead / Chair role on Strategic Advisory Groups) and enabling Task and Finish Groups.
- Evaluate strategy implementation against agreed Key Results Areas and Key Performance Indicators.
- Have a leading role on Strategic Advisory Groups and the development of strategy that is aligned to Tees Valley economic priorities, acting as regional champions for their specialist sectors and the wider Tees Valley economy.

## **Governance**

The Tees Valley Business Board will:

- Meet quarterly.
- Review membership annually
- Report quarterly to TVCA Cabinet

## **Partnerships and Engagement**

The Tees Valley Business Board Chair will be a member of the Freeport Board, and represent Tees Valley on all relevant regional, pan-regional, national and international networks as agreed with TVCA Mayor and Directors.