



Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Tees Valley Combined Authority Offices; Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside
International Airport, Darlington DL2 1NJ
Friday 14th July 2023 at 1pm

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

Present:
Members
Councillor Pauline Beall, Stockton Borough Council
Councillor Steve Nelson, Stockton Borough Council
Councillor Tony Riordan, Stockton Borough Council
Councillor Ian Haszeldine, Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Sonia Kane, Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Andy Keir, Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Brenda Harrison, Hartlepool Borough Council
Councillor Jim Lindridge, Hartlepool Borough Council
Councillor David Branson, Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Matt Storey, Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Dennis McCabe, Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Margaret O'Donoghue, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Councillor Glyn Nightingale, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
<i>Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (TBC)</i>
<i>Hartlepool Borough Council (TBC)</i>
Officers in Attendance:
Mayor Ben Houchen, Tees Valley Mayor
Julie Gilhespie, Group Chief Executive
Tom Bryant, TVCA Assistant Director of Infrastructure
Emma Simson, TVCA Interim Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer)
Nicola Dean, TVCA Governance & Scrutiny Officer
Apologies:
Gary Macdonald, Group Director of Finance & Resources

<p>OSC 01/23</p>	<p>WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Emma Simson, (ES), Interim Chief Legal Officer welcomed Members and a round of introductions were made.</p> <p>Apologies were submitted as detailed above.</p>
<p>OSC 02/23</p>	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest raised.</p>
<p>OSC 03/23</p>	<p>NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR & VICE</p> <p>ES invited nominations for the positions for Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Sonia Kane (SK) nominated Cllr Ian Haszeldine (IH) for the position of Chair, and this was seconded by Cllr Brenda Harrison (BH).</p> <p>Cllr Brenda Harrison (BH) nominated Cllr Steve Nelson (SN) for the position of Vice Chair and this was seconded by Cllr David Branson (DB).</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT: The Committee agreed these nominations.</p>
<p>OSC 04/23</p>	<p>ROLE OF THE TVCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>A Report was provided to Members in advance of the meeting detailing the role of the TVCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee and a presentation was delivered by ES.</p> <p>Members queried capacity to support the Committee and asked what full-time resources were available to undertake scrutiny and what the full-time resources were in Communications. ES explained that the Scrutiny Officer, supported by a newly appointed Manager will support the scrutiny function in the future. It was queried if the Committee determines there is not sufficient resource, what scope there was for additional support. ES explained that there is a wider governance function so if additional support were required it can be pulled from that. It was agreed a response would come back to the Committee on the Communications resource.</p> <p>There was query over whether a Member would be able to request WhatsApp or e-mails relating to documents or if they are information in their own right. ES confirmed such communications as information in their own right but would clarify in terms of access.</p> <p>The Chair suggested to Members that consideration be given to 6 Committee meetings in the coming year rather than 4. ES advised the need to bear in mind there will be a lot of subgroup meetings between full Committee meetings now and work will also be getting undertaken on those. The Chair suggested that some meetings be single item Agendas and allow time to feedback before conclusion of any deep dives. It was suggested consideration could also be given to changing times of meetings and/or being an hour longer to help the process. Members agreed to look at such possibilities.</p> <p>The Mayor highlighted that if there are changes to the meeting schedule, there may potentially be problems in his attendance. It was confirmed that existing meetings have been put in calendars that enable the Mayor to attend but he could not guarantee this for additional meetings. The Committee confirmed that where the Mayor's attendance is</p>

	<p>required, the Committee will liaise with the Mayor's office to enable the Mayor to attend where available.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT: Members note the role, powers and remit of the Committee</p>
The Committee	
OSC 05/23	<p>ANNUAL REVIEW OF DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE</p> <p>In advance of the meeting Members were provided with a DRAFT Terms of Reference as approved by the outgoing Committee for review and comment by the Committee.</p> <p>Members requested clarification on their role as a 'member' and ES clarified they were Members of the Committee and not Members of the Combined Authority as they are the Leaders of 5 LAs.</p> <p>It was clarified that Members can request information to carry out their role in respect to the reach their remit extends to and are not restricted to any areas of the Combined Authority when it comes to scrutinising.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The DRAFT Terms of Reference approved; ii. Terms of Reference to be a 'For Information' item in future Agenda & Papers packs.
OSC 06/23	<p>DRAFT FORWARD PLAN 2023/24</p> <p>The Committee was presented with a DRAFT Forward Plan for review and consideration for topics to be covered in future meetings.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT: i. Members agreed the DRAFT Forward Plan ii. Members agreed the DRAFT Work Planning Framework</p>
OSC 07/23	<p>SOUTH TEES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OVERVIEW & DEEP DIVE TOPIC SELECTION</p> <p>Julie Gilhespie, (JG), Group Chief Executive, delivered a presentation on South Tees Development Corporation and Members were provided with a Report in advance of the meeting to support in informing decision making when selecting a topic for scrutiny.</p> <p>The scrap metal generated by the demolition of the steelworks was discussed and Members were advised that money had formed part of what was spent on the remediation of the site which was around £60m. Much of the work to remediate the land was confirmed to have been undertaken by local firms from the Tees Valley.</p> <p>Following a question about the ability of the committee to raise questions it was agreed that if the Committee would like to submit a list of questions, those that could be responded to, would be.</p> <p>CPO was discussed and it was explained that the Independent Review Panel were being provided with information for their review and once completed, that would provide clarity and further information.</p> <p>The decision of the Combined Authority to approve that TVCA's quarterly monitoring on behalf of HMG on investment in the site was agreed to be the deep dive area.</p>

	<p>MS volunteered as the Lead Member on the Sub Group and this was agreed by the Committee. Membership of the Committee was agreed to be Cllr Margaret O Donoghue, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Matt Storey, Cllr Andy Keir and Cllr Brenda Harrison but with the caveat that the new HBC member, yet to be appointed may assume this role.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Members note the background provided on STDC, its powers and its objectives for the site at Teesworks; ii Members note the TVCA Governance arrangements in respect of its investment interests in STDC iii The deep dive topic will be the Combined Authority quarterly reporting on the spend of Government money iv. The Subgroup will meet to initially decide their objectives and remit and agree Terms of Reference for the Group.
<p>OSC 08/23</p>	<p>TRANSPORT OVERVIEW & DEEP DIVE TOPIC SELECTION</p> <p>Tom Bryant, (TB), Assistant Director of Infrastructure, delivered a presentation on Transport and Members were provided with a Report in advance of the meeting to support in informing decision making when selecting a topic for scrutiny.</p> <p>Members discussed concerns in relation to reduced Arriva bus services and considered what could be done to maintain existing services and create new routes. The Mayor explained how TVCA and the LAs had agreed to address some of the proposed Arriva cuts using £460K of BSIP+ funding. The Mayor explained that where the bus companies had withdrawn services, they were those that were not commercially viable. The Mayor explained he had met with LA leaders on this to consider the response. Significant work was done to assess the cost of intervention against the number of people using the service. This then resulted in the prioritised list of services that is being supported. The Mayor stressed that those services not being supported did not offer value for money and highlighted that some would have cost up to £250 per passenger trip to subsidise.</p> <p>The Mayor then highlighted that this left circa £1m of BSIP+ funding available to spend in the current financial year to support new services that have the potential to become commercially viable over time. Members were advised that LAs had been asked to respond on how and where this money could be spent. Members were urged to work with their LA to give feedback to TVCA on this as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>The Mayor provided background on how bus companies had been supported through covid with concessionary fares payments at 100% of pre covid levels, but that this could not continue indefinitely given the reduction in concessionary passengers.</p> <p>Members discussed a need for more control over bus companies and a franchising system was highlighted. The Mayor explained TVCA does not have sufficient revenue to consider implementing franchising so work is being done through the Enhanced Partnership.</p> <p>In determining a deep dive area for review, a Member noted capacity and the need to ensure that work was not being duplicated. Reasonable use of Officers time was also highlighted as a consideration.</p> <p>Cllr Matt Storey (MS) emphasised a need to look at best value for the people of the Tees Valley and a focus on a policy area in the right way so as not to be too broad or the exercise will not achieve the desired objectives. It was suggested there is a need to look at</p>

	<p>best practice and hear from both Officers and the Lead Portfolio holder to provide better value and recommendations for improvement. MS proposed the deep dive to be focussed on buses.</p> <p>Following discussion, the area of buses was agreed as the initial deep dive area with membership being Cllr David Branson, Cllr Sonia Kane, Cllr Margaret O Donoghue, Cllr Brenda Harrison, Cllr Steve Nelson and the Chair proposed the Lead Member of Transport Subgroup be DB, seconded by SK and Committee agreed.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>i. The details of the Report are noted;</p> <p>ii. The deep dive topic will be Buses and the agreed Subgroup will initially meet to decide their objectives and remit and agree Terms of Reference.</p>
OSC 09/23	<p>DELEGATED DECISIONS</p> <p>A Report was issued to Members of the delegated decisions made since the last meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT: The content of the Report was noted.</p>
OSC 10/23	<p>DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The meeting schedule for the year was confirmed to be booked into Member calendar with the next meeting confirmed as 5th October at 10am but that the scrutiny Sub Committee would meet between meetings to undertake the Scrutiny activities as agreed.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that he would meet with Officers to consider plans of moving meetings from 4 to 6 and checks will be made into Officer availability and determine which Officers should be on any subgroup.</p>
OSC 11/23	<p>For Information: GROUP UPDATE</p> <p>This Report was included in papers as a 'for information' item for Members' consideration.</p>

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please contact: Governance & Scrutiny Officer - Nicola Dean, Nicola.dean@tvca-ca.gov.uk