



**AGENDA ITEM 5  
REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY  
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET**

**22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**REPORT OF THE ACTING MONITORING OFFICER**

## **GOVERNANCE AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Appointments (for ratification)**

This report seeks ratification for 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 Chair of the South Tees Development Corporation Audit & Governance Committee.

Councillor Niall Innes has been proposed as Stockton Borough Council's substitute member on TVCA's Audit & Governance Committee.

The Vice Chair of the Transport Committee will be updated at a future Cabinet meeting due to the timing of the Transport Committee.

The Executive member on the Middlesbrough Mayoral Development Corporations has nominated a substitute member with the authority to act in his place on the Corporation Board.

#### **Portfolio Responsibilities (for confirmation only)**

The Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) Constitution allows for Cabinet members to allocate portfolio responsibilities between them, representing the principal responsibilities of the Combined Authority. These are detailed within this Report by way of confirmation.

#### **Tees Valley Business Board (to note)**

Progress is to be noted.

#### **Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendation (for approval)**

The Independent Remuneration Panel has met and its recommendations in relation to the allowance of the Tees Valley Mayor are included within that report. Pursuant to the provision of the TVCA Constitution, Cabinet is asked to consider and approve its recommendations.

#### **Proposed amendments to the TVCA Constitution (for approval)**

In line with the provisions of the TVCA Constitution, the Acting Monitoring Officer has reviewed and proposed amendments the TVCA Constitution. Cabinet is asked to approve these amendments.



## Tees Valley Combined Authority – Annual Governance Statement (for approval)

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet:

- i. agrees the appointments set out in Paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Report;
- ii. considers and agrees the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel with regards to the Mayoral Allowance as set out in Appendix 1; and
- iii. agrees the proposed amendments to the TVCA Constitution – a copy of which is attached as Appendix 2 with tracked changes shown.

### DETAIL

#### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

1. At its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee nominated the following:
  - Councillor Ian Haszeldine as Chair for the civic year 2023/24
  - Councillor Steve Nelson as Vice-Chair for the civic year 2023/24.

Cabinet is asked to agree the appointment of Councillor David Branson from Middlesbrough Council and Councillor Paul Salvin from Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council on to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet is asked to agree the appointment of Councillor Lynn Hall from Stockton as a substitute member of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

#### Audit & Governance Committees

2. At its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Tees Valley Combined Authority Audit & Governance Committee nominated the following:
  - Councillor Mandy Porter as Chair for the civic year 2023/24
  - Councillor Nicky Walker as Vice-Chair for the civic year 2023/24.
3. At its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023, South Tees Development Corporation Audit & Governance Committee nominated Allan Armstrong as Chair for the civic year 2023/24. There was no proposal for the role of Vice Chair so this will be considered again at a later date.
4. Councillor Niall Innes has been proposed as Stockton Borough Council's substitute member on TVCA's Audit & Governance Committee.

#### Middlesbrough and Hartlepool Development Corporation Boards.

5. The Constitutions of the Middlesbrough and Hartlepool Development Corporations provides that the Elected Member on the Board may nominate a substitute member to act in their place.

- Middlesbrough Mayor Chris Cooke has nominated Councillor Phillipa Storey;
- Hartlepool Executive member Cllr Mike Young has not nominated a substitute member.

## Portfolio Responsibilities

6. TVCA's Constitution allows for Cabinet members to allocate portfolio responsibilities between them, representing the principal responsibilities of the Combined Authority. The Portfolio responsibilities are as follows:-
  - Portfolio Area: Education, Employment and Skills - Councillor Bob Cook;
  - Portfolio Area: Business Growth and Net Zero - Councillor Alec Brown;
  - Portfolio Area: Inward Investment – Mayor Chris Cooke;
  - Portfolio Area: Creative Place - Councillor Mike Young;
  - Portfolio Area: Transport and Infrastructure – Councillor Stephen Harker.

## The Business Board

7. Progress has been made on the appointments to the Tees Valley Business Board which are detailed in a substantive agenda item.

## Independent Remuneration Panel Report – Mayoral Allowance

8. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provides that where there is a recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel, this is approved by the Authority which set it up, which is, in this case, TVCA.
9. Cabinet is invited to consider and agree the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel with regards to the Mayoral Allowance following the Mayoral Election 2024, as set out in Appendix 1.

## TVCA Constitution

10. The Interim Monitoring Officer has reviewed the TVCA Constitution as set out in Appendix 2. Cabinet is asked to agree the recommended amendments which are shown as tracked changes.

## TVCA Annual Governance Statement

11. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require all authorities in England to conduct a review at least once a year of the effectiveness of its governance framework and produce an Annual Governance Statement which will be published online to accompany its Statement of Accounts.
11. At its meeting on 14 September 2023, the TVCA Audit & Governance Committee considered the TVCA Annual Governance Statement
12. The Annual Governance Statement will be presented for approval to Cabinet on Friday 22nd September 2023.

13. A requirement of the regulations states that the Governance Statement should be signed by a minimum of the Group Chief Executive and the Mayor, following approval by Cabinet. A key objective of this signing off process is to secure corporate ownership of the Statement's contents. The Annual Governance Statement acknowledges the Tees Valley Combined Authority's responsibility for ensuring that proper arrangements are in place around the governance of its affairs. Guidance on producing an effective Governance Statement confirms that approvers of the Statement should be aware of the process followed in order to draft it. TVCA's Annual Governance Statement, includes a description of the key elements of its governance framework, how good governance is ensured in each of those elements, a description of the process applied in reviewing the effectiveness of this framework and an outline of the actions taken or, proposed to be taken, to deal with significant governance issues.
14. The Combined Authority's draft Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 is attached at Appendix 3. At this time the Authority has not identified any significant issues that are not being addressed within the Statement.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. 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

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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.



Name of Contact Officer: Sally Henry  
Post Title: Governance Officer  
Telephone Number: 01325 792831  
Email Address: [sally.henry@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk](mailto:sally.henry@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk)