

15TH DECEMBER 2023

REPORT OF THE ACTING MONITORING OFFICER

GOVERNANCE AND APPOINTMENTS

SUMMARY

Jim Whiston – Member of TVCA's Independent Remuneration Panel

This report acknowledges the sad death of Jim Whiston who served as Middlesbrough Council's representative on the Combined Authority's Independent Remuneration Panel.

Appointments (for ratification)

This report seeks ratification for the Vice Chair of the Transport Committee and the Tees Valley representative on Transport for the North's Scrutiny Committee.

Audit & Governance Committee – tenure of Independent Members and Proposed Amendments to the TVCA Constitution (to note)

At a recent meeting of TVCA's Audit and Governance Committee, it was proposed that at its next review, an amendment be made to TVCA's Constitution to provide that, in future, independent membership of the Audit & Governance Committee shall be 2 years, extendable by one further term of up to 2 years, unless otherwise agreed by Cabinet. The Committee further proposed the extension to the terms of office of 2 existing independent members to ensure continuity of membership whilst a recruitment process was undertaken.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet:

- i. Expresses their sadness at the death of Jim Whiston and extend their sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues;
- ii. agrees the appointments set out in Paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of this Report;
- iii. notes the proposed position in respect of the term of Membership for Independent Members of the TVCA Audit & Governance Committee.

DETAIL

Jim Whiston, Independent Remuneration Panel

1. It was with much sadness that we learned of the recent death of Jim Whiston. Jim was a valued member of the Combined Authority's Independent Remuneration Panel since 2017, and he will be greatly missed by all those who had the pleasure of working with him. The Combined Authority Group would like to extend their sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues.

Transport Committee

2. At its meeting on 17th October 2023, Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee nominated the following:
 - Councillor Carl Quartermain as Vice Chair for the civic year 2023/24
 - Councillor Sue Little as Tees Valley's representative on the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee for the civic year 2023/24.

Audit & Governance Committee

3. Cabinet is invited to ratify the appointment of Councillor Peter Grogan from Redcar & Cleveland Council as a substitute member on the TVCA Audit & Governance Committee.
4. The Audit & Governance committee proposed that independent members of the TVCA Audit & Governance Committee shall be 2 years, extendable by a further term of 2 years unless otherwise agreed by Cabinet.
5. The Audit & Governance Committee further proposed that an extension to the terms of office for Independent Members Jonathan Munby (to end of June 2024) and Angus Kidd (to end of November 2024) is approved by Cabinet.

TVCA Constitution

6. If Cabinet agree to the extended term of the independent Audit & Governance members, an amendment to the Constitution will be required at the next review of the TVCA Constitution.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. 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



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

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. 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

10. 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

11. 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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