



Annex C: Governance Assurance Statement

The LEP Chair and Chief Executive should here provide a brief formal assurance statement on the status of governance and transparency. This should include any overview and scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. This should be sent to the Assurance Team via localgrowthassurance@levellingup.gov.uk, copying the DBT Area Lead, by **29 February 2024**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **15 March 2024** with confirmation sent to the email address above. **(max 500 words)**

The Combined Authority is required to produce and publish an annual governance statement, alongside the Annual Statement of Accounts. As the Combined Authority encompasses the Tees Valley Business Board (previously known as the Local Enterprise Partnership – LEP), the annual governance statement applies to both.

The statement includes:

Scope of responsibility – Conducting business within the law. Ensuring public money is properly accounted for and used economically. Meeting duties under the Local Government Act. Establishing governance in line with CIPFA and SOLACE framework.

The Purpose of the Governance Framework and Our Vision – Comprising the systems and processes, culture & values that direct and control our activities. A clear vision of our purpose and intended outcomes for businesses and resident (High Value, Low Carbon, Diverse & Inclusive Economy).

The Key Elements of our Governance Framework – Arrangements that are in place to ensure governance is up to date and effective and that our services are delivered in line with our objectives. Includes details of Overview & Scrutiny Committee arrangements.

Review of Effectiveness (including an improvement plan) – Review conducted at least annually with oversight from the Group Chief Executive and Group Director of Finance & Resources. An improvement plan is produced as a result with specific actions and timescales.

The statement is signed by the Chief Executive of the Combined Authority, the Tees Valley Mayor and the Tees Valley Business Board Chair.

A copy of the statement is published on our website here: <https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/transparency/annual-statement-of-accounts/>

More detail of how the Authority operates can be found within the constitution here: [Microsoft Word - TVCA Constitution design version 11\[75\].docx \(teesvalley-ca.gov.uk\)](#)



Independent Review Report: South Tees Development Corporation and Teesworks Joint Venture

The Combined Authority has received the “Independent Review Report: South Tees Development Corporation and Teesworks Joint Venture” which incorporates recommendations in relation to governance and transparency.

The Combined Authority have established a Cross-Authority Working Group to consider and coordinate implementation activity in respect of the recommendations of the review. The Cross Authority Working Group membership includes Statutory Officers from all 5 Constituent Authorities has now been established. A response has been provided to the Secretary of State on the approach that the Combined Authority is planning to take to the recommendations contained in this report by the 8th March 2024.

A copy of the Independent Review Terms of Reference can be found here: [Terms of reference - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118444/Independent_Review_Terms_of_Reference.pdf)

A copy of the Independent Review Report can be found here: [Independent review report: South Tees Development Corporation and Teesworks Joint Venture - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118444/Independent_Review_Report.pdf)

A copy of the Secretary of State letter to the Tees Valley Mayor can be found here: [Letter from the DLUHC Secretary of State to the Mayor of Tees Valley - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118444/Letter_from_the_DLUHC_Secretary_of_State_to_the_Mayor_of_Tees_Valley.pdf)

A copy of the Tees Valley Mayor's response to the Secretary of State can be found here: [Mayor-Houchens-letter-to-Secretary-of-State.pdf \(teesvalley-ca.gov.uk\)](https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/media/118444/Mayor-Houchens-letter-to-Secretary-of-State.pdf)

The Combined Authority implementation activity is anticipated to report back to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Annual General Meeting 2024 with applicable proposals to be implemented in response to the Independent Review Report. Any proposals to this meeting will be following consultation with Local Authority representatives and the Tees Valley Business Board.

Signed:

Siobhan McArdle

Name: Siobhan McArdle

Position: Tees Valley Business Board Chair

Date: 29/02/2024

Signed:

Shirley Gunns



Department for Levelling Up, Department for
Housing & Communities Business & Trade

Name: Julie Gilhespie

Position: TVCA Group Chief Executive Officer

Date: 29/02/2024