



Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tees Valley Combined Authority Offices; Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside
International Airport, Darlington, DL2 1NJ
Wednesday, 8 November 2023 at 1.30pm

Present	
Members:	
Councillor Ian Haszeldine, (Chair) 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 Borough Council	
Councillor Matt Storey, Middlesbrough Borough Council	
Councillor Margaret O'Donoghue, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	
Councillor Paul Salvin, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	
Councillor Steve Nelson, (Vice Chair) Stockton Borough Council	
Officers in attendance:	
Julie Gilhespie, Group Chief Executive	
Tom Bryant, TVCA Assistant Director of Infrastructure	
Emma Simson, TVCA Interim Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer)	
Guy Close, TVCA Governance and Scrutiny Manager	
Apologies for absence:	
Mayor Ben Houchen, Tees Valley Mayor, Councillor Stephen Harker, Darlington Borough Council, Councillor Dennis McCabe, Middlesbrough Borough Council, Councillor Jim Beall, Stockton Borough Council, Councillor Tony Riordan, Stockton Borough Council, and Councillor Glyn Nightingale, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.	
OSC 12/23	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions were made.</p> <p>Members were reminded about the importance of adhering to the members' code of conduct, particularly the need to ensure that questions to officers and other representatives in attendance were respectful.</p>

	<p>In response to a query, it was advised that a recording of the recent member induction sessions had not been provided to members. Whilst the intention was to produce a recording for members who had been unable to attend the sessions, some members had since raised concerns about the prospect of the recording being shared more widely. Members were advised that it was necessary for data protection purposes to seek consent from everyone present at the sessions before the recording could be made available to members.</p>
OSC 13/23	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
OSC 14/23	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.</p>
OSC 15/23	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</p> <p>Members discussed setting up a WhatsApp group to follow up on the work of the Committee.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT: The Chair's e-mail address be shared with the rest of the Committee with the aim of setting up a WhatsApp group for members to follow up on the work of the Committee.</p>
OSC 16/23	<p>SOUTH TEES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (STDC) SUB COMMITTEE INTERIM UPDATE</p> <p>The Chair of the STDC Sub Committee, Councillor Matt Storey (MS) presented an update on progress made to date and next steps.</p> <p>It was advised that the focus of the review was to better understand the relationship between TVCA and STDC, particularly in relation to inward investment and ensuring value for money. The Sub Committee had already received a breakdown of high value / risk projects and the intention was now to focus on some of these in greater detail.</p> <p>One member queried the types of information that could be sought as part of the scrutiny review. It was advised that valid reasons were to be provided if information was not to be disclosed. Members were reminded about the importance of following the objectives outlined in the scoping document.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The contents of the report and appendices, be noted; and b) That the next session focussed on some of the high value / risk projects in greater detail. MS to advise officers on specific projects to focus on having consulted with the Sub-Committee.
OSC 17/23	<p>BUSES SUB COMMITTEE INTERIM UPDATE</p> <p>The Chair of the Buses Sub Committee, Councillor David Branson (DB) presented an update on progress made to date and next steps.</p>

	<p>Members were informed that the initial focus had been on four of the five key areas of the Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP), as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable network for the future, including financing of routes that were not commercially viable; • Bus priority improvements; • Improved fare offer; and • Enhanced customer experience. <p>The Sub Committee discussed the need for greater engagement with bus users, particularly in addressing the above key areas of the BSIP.</p> <p>The next stage was to meet with bus service providers Arriva and Stagecoach. One member reported issues using bus operator apps, which were considered unreliable. This issue was to be raised with the bus service providers.</p> <p>Tom Bryant (TB), Assistant Director for Infrastructure, advised that it may be beneficial to schedule two separate meetings with the bus service providers. It was important to bear in mind that there may be information that the bus services providers were unable to disclose to each other due to commercial sensitivity reasons.</p> <p>The Chair of the Sub Committee, DB, advised that it might prove challenging to agree suitable meeting dates with the bus service providers in December (as previously scheduled). This could result in a delay to the final report being presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2024.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That the contents of the report, be noted; and b) That two separate sessions be arranged with bus service providers Arriva and Stagecoach to focus on key areas of the Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP).
<p>OSC 18/23</p>	<p>FINANCE AND RESOURCES SUB COMMITTEE – SCRUTINY PROCESS AND MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>It was reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had previously established the practice of convening a Finance and Resources Sub Committee (made up of the Committee Vice Chair and other members) to scrutinise the budget in more detail by conducting a full analysis of the draft documents and contributing to the consultation process.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The previously adopted process undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Finance and Resources Sub Committee to scrutinise the budget, be noted and approved for 2023/24. b) That membership of the Finance and Resources Sub Committee for 2023/24 to comprise of the following members: Councillors Haszeldine (Chair), Branson, Lindridge, Salvin plus Stockton member to confirm.
<p>OSC 19/23</p>	<p>DELEGATED DECISIONS</p>

	<p>The Committee received a list of the delegated decisions approved by TVCA covering the period July 2023 and September 2023.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT: The delegated decisions approved by TVCA covering the period July 2023 and September 2023, be noted.</p>
OSC 20/23	<p>REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN AND WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24</p> <p>The Committee received a copy of the draft work programme for 2023/24.</p> <p>Members noted the need to allow flexibility within the work programme to consider new and emerging areas of work.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT: The draft work programme for 2023/24, be approved.</p>
OSC 21/23	<p>TVCA LEGAL ADVICE SOUGHT</p> <p>In response to a query, it was advised that TVCA had sought legal advice on whether it was possible to defame a public body. Whilst technically possible, TVCA had opted against pursuing this course of action.</p>
OSC 10/23	<p>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Thursday, 11 January 2024 at 10.00 a.m.</p>
OSC 11/23	<p>GROUP UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION)</p> <p>A group update was provided for members' information.</p> <p>Julie Gilhespie (JG), Chief Executive, advised that whilst it had originally been announced that the findings of the independent review were to be published by the end of October, it was now expected to be in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>In response to a query, TB undertook to provide clarification to all members of the Committee regarding the new Middlesbrough to Newcastle semi-fast service.</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 and Scrutiny Officer, Nicola Dean, Nicola.dean@tvca-ca.gov.uk