



**Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tees Valley Combined Authority Offices; Teesside Airport Business Suite,
Teesside International Airport, Darlington, DL2 1NJ**

Thursday, 14 March 2024 at 10.00am

Present:

Members

Councillor Ian Haszeldine	Darlington Borough Council (Chair)
Councillor Sonia Kane	Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Andy Keir	Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Brenda Harrison	Hartlepool Borough Council
Councillor Margaret O'Donoghue	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Councillor Paul Salvin	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Councillor Steve Nelson	Stockton Borough Council (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Pauline Beall	Stockton Borough Council
Councillor Lynn Hall	Stockton Borough Council
Councillor David Branson	Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Matt Storey	Middlesbrough Council

In Attendance

Mayor Ben Houchen	Tees Valley Mayor
Julie Gilhespie	Group Chief Executive, TVCA
Gary Macdonald	Group Director of Finance & Resources, TVCA
Emma Simson	Acting Group Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer, TVCA
Guy Close	Governance and Scrutiny Manager, TVCA
Connor Malone	Governance and Scrutiny Officer, TVCA

OSC 33/24	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitution
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	<p>Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Glyn Nightingale (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council) and Councillor Tony Riordan (Stockton Borough Council).</p> <p>Notification had been received that Councillor Lynn Hall was to substitute for Councillor Tony Riordan.</p>
OSC 34/24	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
OSC 35/24	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2024 be approved as correct record.</p>
OSC 36/24	<p>Scrutiny Protocol: Briefing Paper</p> <p>Connor Malone, Governance and Scrutiny Officer submitted a briefing paper updating the Committee on the research that TVCA had undertaken in relation to the Scrutiny Protocol announced in November 2023.</p> <p>Members sought clarification on the legislative background and introduction to the protocol. It was advised that the protocol was being considered alongside the recommendations as set out in the Tees Valley Report, further explanation made clear the intention to implement where possible but to deliver any changes when satisfied that they had been thoroughly explored and appropriately scrutinised. It was noted that it had a significant relationship with Level 4 devolution, which TVCA was in the process of reviewing.</p> <p>The Committee considered setting up a Sub-Committee to review the Scrutiny Protocol in greater detail and utilise the time leading up to the TVCA Annual General Meeting (AGM), to explore the necessary requirements to fully introduce the key principles. Members supported the creation of a Sub-Committee to deliver this work, and Councillor Ian Haszeldine was nominated to Chair it.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That a Sub-Committee is established for the purpose of exploring the Scrutiny Protocol in greater detail with a view to fully introducing the key principles. 2) That the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee explores the possibility of inviting technical expertise (potentially from the Centre of Governance and Scrutiny) to support the Sub-Committee. 3) That Councillor Ian Haszeldine is to be Chair the Sub-Committee.
OSC 37/24	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24</p> <p>Guy Close, Governance and Scrutiny Manager presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24.</p>

	<p>Members welcomed the activity of the Committee noting that it had been productive year with a desire to continue delivering on the skills they had developed.</p> <p>The Committee was informed that there was an intention to develop a recommendation tracking system in 2024/25 to monitor progress made against each of the recommendations that had been agreed, particularly in terms of whether progress made was acceptable or required further action.</p> <p>Resolved – That the Committee submits the report to Cabinet to endorse.</p>
<p>OSC 38/24</p>	<p>Response to the Secretary of State in relation to the Tees Valley Review</p> <p>The Acting Group Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer, Emma Simson, submitted a report which presented an update on the Independent Review into the Tees Valley Combined Authority's oversight of the South Tees Development Corporation and Teesworks Joint Venture (Teesworks Limited) and to set out the process for implementation of the recommendations.</p> <p>Members were informed that all constituent local authorities had been involved in the creation of the action plan with a Statutory Officer Working Group created involving Monitoring Officers, s151/s73 Officers, and Chief Executives/ Managing Directors. The Committee were advised that there were several requests for clarification due in relation to items within the recommendations.</p> <p>The Committee sought a more direct relationship with the implementation of the recommendations, particularly in relation to Scrutiny activities. Members were informed that several workshops were to be delivered over the coming months for members of Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committee. Prior to implementation of the plan there would be opportunities for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review it before being presented to Cabinet for approval. Members requested an additional appendix within the implementation plan, which captured any additional feedback and comments was not featured elsewhere in the action plan.</p> <p>The Committee considered the option of engaging with constituent local authorities and encouraging their respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review the Tees Valley Review and feedback any comments they had. It was advised that TVCA could not instruct constituent local authorities to review the Report but could inform them of the request of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to do so.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the Committee note the contents of the report and appendices. 2) That Officers engage with Chief Officers of the constituent local authorities to suggest that their respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees review the action plan and feedback any comments that they had. 3) That an additional appendix be added to the implementation plan, which captures any additional feedback and comments that is not featured elsewhere in the action plan.



OSC 39/24	Delegated Decisions Resolved – That the delegated decisions covering the period January – February 2024 be noted.
OSC 40/24	Date and Time of Next Meeting To be confirmed.