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**TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Hartlepool College of Further Education, Stockton Street, Hartlepool  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 10.30am**

**MEETING**

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ATTENDEES

Members

Councillor Phil Dennis (Chair)	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC
Councillor Heather Scott (VC)	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Councillor Ian Haszeldine	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Councillor Sonia Kane	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Councillor Jean Sharrocks	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC
Councillor Marjorie James	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Councillor Bob Norton	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Councillor Derrick Brown	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC
Councillor Norma Stephenson	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC
Councillor Glyn Nightingale	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC

Apologies for absence

Councillor Philip Thomson	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Councillor Kaylee Sirs	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Councillor Jon Rathmell	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC
Councillor Denise Rooney	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC

Officers

Andrew Lewis	Managing Director TVCA	TVCA
Sue Hannan	Employment & Skills Manager	TVCA
Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	Hartlepool Borough Council Governance Manager	HBC TVCA
Sarah Brackenborough	Scrutiny Officer	TVCA
Sharon Jones	Scrutiny Officer	HBC
Joan Stevens		

**OSC  
18/17**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no interests declared.

**OSC  
19/17**      **MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**OSC  
20/17**      **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

There were no announcements from the Chair

**OSC  
21/17**      **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The Managing Director gave an update regarding the following items:

The launch of TVCA Strategic economic plan was held in December. The event was attended by Lord Heseltine and was a very successful event with a lot of positive press coverage. Around 300 businesses from the region also attended.

The Legislation to establish new governance arrangements is still being progressed; these include changes for Overview & Scrutiny. The process has taken a while due to the route that central Government and parliament need to follow. In line with this we are still working on the TVCA Constitution and are hoping to have the final draft signed off in February. O&S are scheduled to consider the procedures for call-in of decisions.

The South Tees Development Corporation is currently operating in shadow form and we have started consultation around the proposals to establish the Corporation as a statutory body. The Consultation document is available publicly and we have also written to all businesses on the site, Local authorities, MP's and key agencies. Consultation will run until 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Overview & Scrutiny will be asked to consider the proposals at their next meeting, which will include a site visit.

Consultation is also currently taking place around the TVCA Transport policy. This document has also been made available publicly and is visible in public and council buildings. Overview & Scrutiny are scheduled to scrutinise transport issues at a future meeting.

The National Audit Office is visiting TVCA this week. The visit is to allow us to demonstrate the working arrangements we have within Tees Valley currently. While they are here NAO will be meeting with O&S Chair and Vice Chair to discuss the arrangements we have in

place for scrutiny.

The Autumn Statement announced new borrowing powers for Combined Authorities, which will require legislation. Borrowing will need to follow the prudential code, which requires a clear revenue source to fund borrowing costs.

RESOLVED that the update be noted

**OSC 22/17**      **PORTFOLIO BRIEFING – EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS**

A presentation was delivered by Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher as the Portfolio holder for the area of Education, Employment & Skills

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions or make comment around the presentation. Discussion took place around the following topics:-

- Better links are needed between schools, colleges & employers. There is a need to ensure that education and employment are linked so that young people and teaching staff understand what the options are and can make informed choices. We also need to ensure that courses on offer in colleges relate to jobs that are actually available in the local area to ensure employment on course completion.
- TVCA's link to Regional Schools Commissioner – There was a meeting held with the Deputy RSC in December who was interested in what we are doing and keen to engage with us. Hopefully moving forward we will have a positive relationship with the RSC and can work together.

Resolved that the content of the presentation and discussion be noted.

**OSC 23/17**      **PRESENTATION – APPRENTICESHIPS**

A presentation was delivered by Sue Hannan, TVCA Employment & Skills Manager

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions or make comment around the report. Discussion took place around the following topics:-

- Offering an apprenticeship guarantee so we can ensure apprentices are able to find employment. Currently this is not something we are able to do due to financial constraint. The Jobs and Skills Investment Grant Scheme (RGF4) worked extremely well and allowed us to ensure that successful employers took apprentices on with a 2 year requirement (or repay the grant). This is something we would like to be able to provide more widely in future but we are currently unable to offer this across the board
- Funding issues – we have high ambitions but require sufficient funding to allow us to realise these. A request has been made to the managing Authority (DWP) for some additional funding

from the EU Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) in part from an under allocation of Tees Valley funds and also due to an underspend in other YEI areas (including London) and we are awaiting confirmation as to whether this is granted or not. If it is granted then we already have delivery partners on board who have the capacity to utilise this funding.

Resolved that:-

- The presentation and discussion be noted
- A report entitled “Apprenticeships started by Tees Valley residents -2015/16” is to be published imminently – this will be circulated to Overview & Scrutiny Committee for information

**OSC  
24/17**

### **FORWARD PLAN**

Consideration was given to the O&S forward plan

RESOLVED – that the O&S forward plan be noted

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting to be held in Redcar & Cleveland on 23<sup>rd</sup> February was noted