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

**Meeting Room , Cavendish House, Teesdale Business Park,  
Stockton-on-Tees**

**Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 10.00am**

**MEETING**

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ATTENDEES

Members

Councillor Phil Dennis (Chair)	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC
Councillor Ian Haszeldine	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Councillor Sonia Kane	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Councillor Heather Scott	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Councillor Denise Rooney	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC
Councillor Jean Sharrocks	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC
Councillor Bob Norton	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Councillor Phillip Thomson	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Councillor Derrick Brown	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC
Councillor Norma Stephenson	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC

Apologies for absence

Councillor Stephen Akers- Belcher	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Councillor Jon Rathmell	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC

Officers

Andrew Lewis	Managing Director TVCA	TVCA
Judith Trainer	Team Leader-Electoral & Scrutiny	SBC
Sharon Jones	Scrutiny Officer	SBC
Nigel Hart	Team Leader-Civic, Democratic & Member Services	SBC

Also in attendance

Mayor Budd	Middlesbrough Borough Council and Chair of the TVCA Board	MBC
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**OSC INTRODUCTIONS**

**1/16** Introductions were given.

**OSC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2/16** There were no interests declared.

**OSC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE-WORK PROGRAMME**

**3/16** Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from Mayor Budd, Chair of the TVCA, and Andrew Lewis, Managing Director of the TVCA, which provided:-

- An introduction to the TVCA, including its statutory duties and value add;
- Governance Arrangements, including definition of Scrutiny function;
- Key Areas of TVCA Responsibility;
- Progress on Devolution Deal;
- Projected Funding Sources for the TVCA 2016-21;
- Potential Priorities for the Scrutiny Work Programme.

It was noted that there was already extensive scrutiny best practice within the Tees Valley which could be built upon to assist the approach to be taken by this Committee; however, further legislation regarding the Scrutiny function was expected to be announced in the next few months and would be shared with this Committee at the earliest opportunity.

To ensure that the Committee carried out its responsibilities in an efficient and effective way, it was proposed that it choose a work programme comprising:-

- Investigating matters of strategic importance
- Performance Management Reporting
- Reviewing upstream work and plans of the TVCA
- Monitoring decisions to make recommendations for improvement.

It was noted that it may be appropriate to invite the relevant TVCA Board Portfolio leads to OSC meetings, however, these positions had not yet been fully determined and would be reviewed again following the election of the new Mayor of the Combined Authority.

The key areas of responsibility of the TVCA could be summarised as:-

- **Business Growth**; through inward investment and attraction of new investors within the Tees Valley; an emphasis on research development and engineering opportunities; and through development of a high value, low carbon diverse and inclusive economy;

- **Education, Employment & Skills**; with new responsibilities and devolved funding granted to the TVCA in respect of Adult skills formerly administered by Colleges; as well as the opportunity to have an influence over employment programmes within the region;
- **Transport & Infrastructure**; with strategic responsibility to improve public services; and resources to improve infrastructure, rail services and bus services (legislation forthcoming);
- **Place**; working with the Homes & Communities Agency to encourage investment in our housing stock, improving our communities and town centres;
- **Culture & Tourism**; enhancing the cultural & tourism offer of the Tees Valley and increasing the number of visitors to the area.

Reference was made to the projected target that 25,000 jobs be achieved which was identified within the Strategic Economic Plan. There was a need for members of this Committee to be fully briefed on the content of the Plan in order to understand whether this target was achievable, realistic and sufficiently challenging; which sectors of employment were targeted, and what the timescale was for achievement.

Members noted the projected funding sources for the TVCA for 2016-21 currently estimated at a minimum of £450m. Of the promised £170m European Funding, £90m had so far been confirmed with the remainder subject to the outcome of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. Members were mindful that decisions on the use of funding should be without the need for ratification from central Government as set out within the Devolution Deal, although it may take some time for these arrangements to be embedded in all Government departments. Familiarity with the terms of the Devolution agreement would therefore also be necessary for this Committee, as well as copies of the Heseltine Review presented previously to the Board.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The content of the presentation be noted.
2. Members of the Committee be provided with copies of the Strategic Economic Plan; the terms of the Devolution Deal, and the Heseltine Review. SJ
3. The TVCA present members of the Committee with an analysis of how the projected target of 25,000 jobs within the Strategic Economic Plan had been derived. AL

## **OSC Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme**

**4/16** The Constitutional requirements of the OSC were noted along with the need for it to develop its own work programme which was intended to encompass upstream work reviewing the most important strategic decisions and the direction of the TVCA, and ensuring that any decisions made were in line with the TVCA's agreed policies.

The Committee was presented with the following outline of possible priorities for its work programme:-

### **Immediate Focus**

- Overview – Discussion with the Chair and Managing Director on overall priorities, ambition and capacity to deliver.
- Transport investment priorities
- Deliver of the “single pot” approach to investment, prioritisation and assurance
- Partnership with Business
- Response to the Heseltine Review
- Budget process and financial management (as part of the Budget setting process for 2017-18)

### **Medium-term developments**

- Establishment of the role of Tees Valley Mayoral Combined Authority and proposed Constitution
- Devolution of Adult Skills and Apprenticeship programmes
- Devolution of Employment Programmes

### **Longer-term developments**

- Public transport – improvements to local rail services, through Rail North, and the prospect of new responsibilities through the Buses Bill
- Local Growth Fund delivery
- Opportunities for future devolution

In addition to the above, Members had also identified at the previous informal meeting (the notes of which were submitted) an examination of how the TVCA would align with the Northern Powerhouse, the implications of Brexit, Housing Growth and the attraction of sovereign funds.

Members also suggested the need for the Committee to have an understanding as soon as possible of the Combined Authority's

Medium Term Financial Plan and budget process. Members were invited to send any further potential work programme topics to the Scrutiny Officer in order that they could be brought back to the next meeting for further consideration.

It was also suggested that the following information be provided for members:-

- Dates of TVCA meetings;
- Copies of TVCA Board & Committee papers when published;
- Future schedule of dates of the OSC reproduced within each set of agenda papers;
- Contact details for both members and officers of the TVCA.

Cllr Kane, newly appointed to the Committee, also requested copies of all previous agendas/minutes of the TVCA and Transport Committee already supplied to members of the OSC.

Members also expressed a wish to meet initially on a 6 weekly cycle and for these meetings to be rotated around the region. Clarification was also sought as to whether the Committee could appoint substitute members to attend on their behalf.

The next meeting of the Committee would also see consideration given to its Training & Development Programme.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The following information be provided for members:-  
SJ
  - Dates of TVCA meetings;
  - Copies of TVCA Board & Committee papers when published;
  - Future schedule of dates of the OSC reproduced within each set of agenda papers;
  - Contact details for both members and officers of the TVCA.
2. Members of the OSC receive a presentation regarding the the Combined Authority's Medium Term Financial Plan and budget process at the earliest opportunity.  
AL
3. Future meetings of the OSC be based around a 6 weekly cycle and the venues for the meetings be rotated around the region.  
SJ
4. Clarification of the position regards substitute members attending the OSC be confirmed at the next meeting.  
SJ
5. The potential topics identified to date for inclusion within the Committee's Scrutiny Work Programme be presented to the

next meeting for consideration, along with any other topics identified by members following this meeting and notified to the Scrutiny Officer.

SJ

6. A report on the draft OSC Training & Development Programme be presented at the next meeting.

SJ/AL

**Chair .....**