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

**Redcar & Cleveland Leisure and Community Heart, Ridley Street, Redcar,
TS10 1TD**

Thursday 23rd February 2017 at 12.30pm

MEETING

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 Denise Rooney	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC
Councillor Philip Thomson	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Councillor Derrick Brown	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC

Apologies for absence

Councillor Bob Norton	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Councillor Glyn Nightingale	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Councillor Kaylee Sirs	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Councillor Marjorie James	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Councillor Jon Rathmell	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC
Councillor Jean Sharrocks	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC
Councillor Norma Stephenson	Stockton Borough Council	SBC

Officers

Andrew Lewis	Managing Director TVCA	TVCA
Neil Cuthbertson	Accountant	TVCA
Sarah Brackenborough	Governance Manager	TVCA
Sharon Jones	Scrutiny Officer	TVCA
Joan Stevens	Scrutiny Officer	HBC

Also in Attendance

Councillor Sue Jeffrey	Leader of Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Andrew Nixon	Commercial and Legal Manager	R&CBC

**OSC
25/17** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no interests declared.

**OSC
26/17** **MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2017.

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

**OSC
27/17** **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

Councillor Heather Scott and Councillor Derrick Brown will both be representing Tees Valley Combined Authority at the “Challenges and opportunities for Scrutiny” seminar being hosted by CfPS on 3rd March in Manchester. They will provide feedback from the event to the rest of the Committee at the next meeting on 4th April.

**OSC
28/17** **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The Managing Director gave an update regarding the following items:

The Combined Authority board met yesterday (22nd February) and approved the Combined Authority Constitution (Minus the section relating to Call in). Legislation to establish new governance arrangements is still being progressed; the procedure for Mayoral Development Corporation’s is being debated this week. The process has taken a while due to the route that central Government and parliament need to follow but progress is being made.

The Combined Authority is currently in the process of producing an Investment plan. The final document will be published in March for discussion by leaders. The plan will be a public document which will allow us to be open and transparent with regard to our plans for the future and for investment in the Tees Valley.

Resolved that the update be noted

**OSC
29/17** **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RULES OF PROCEDURE –
INCLUSIVE OF CALL-IN**

Consideration was given to a report regarding Overview and Scrutiny rules of procedure which include the process for call-in.

From 8th May 2017 the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be able to call-in decisions of the Combined Authority for further scrutiny if they feel it is appropriate to do so.

A workshop was held on 3rd February 2017 where a proposed call-in procedure was discussed and members were given the opportunity to make comments and propose amendments to the procedure. Following the workshop the appropriate amendments were made and the call-in procedure was incorporated into the Overview and Scrutiny rules of procedure which is an appendix within the full Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution.

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

- Number of meetings – The Committee must hold at least 3 meetings per year. Some members felt that 3 meetings would not be sufficient and that the number should be increased. It was advised that 3 is the minimum number of meetings allowed and that keeping this figure would allow for flexibility of meetings. After discussion it was agreed to increase the number of meetings to at least 4 per year. The Committee is currently meeting 6 weekly and the intention is for this to continue throughout 2017.
- Exempt items – members questioned if an item is deemed as exempt will an explanation be given as to why. It was explained that it is a legal requirement to give an explanation for exempt items and therefore the committee would be given reasons for any items of this nature.
- Possible Actions – The 5 options that the Committee may take following the call in of a decision were debated and it was agreed that the options were sufficient and acceptable to the committee.

The Committee expressed gratitude for the opportunity given to discuss the procedure in detail at the earlier workshop and felt this had greatly helped to arrive at a process that could be agreed by all.

Resolved that:-

1. The Rules of Procedure for Overview and Scrutiny Committee are agreed
2. The call-in Procedure for Overview and Scrutiny Committee is agreed
3. The above to be presented to Combined Authority Board at their next meeting on 22nd March for final agreement

**OSC
30/17**

Mayoral Development Corporations

The Committee was given the South Tees Development Corporation consultation report for discussion. They were also given the opportunity to take a tour of the proposed site prior to the commencement of today's meeting.

The Consultation period runs until 10th March 2017. All comments and questions from consultation will be collated and considered and Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be formally consulted on the

plans at their next meeting on 4th April.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions or make comment around the consultation document. Councillor Sue Jeffrey was in attendance and answered questions in her capacity as Chair of the Shadow Mayoral Development Corporation Board. Discussion took place around the following topics:-

- Planning Powers – how will the planning for the MDC work and how can we ensure this is effective. It is expected that the planning department for the relevant local Authority will be responsible for the planning needs of the South Tees Development Corporation, possibly supplemented by a small team within the Development Corporation itself. Members felt that it should be considered that the Development Corporation, once established, uses the planning expertise available across all five constituent authorities rather than relying on only Redcar and Cleveland Council planning expertise.
- Financial Implications – It was noted that the consultation document contains no financial information and there are no costs of the development yet published. It was explained that the Combined Authority is still in discussion with Government regarding finances and that once the corporation is established a business plan and a budget will be developed. The area for the site and the amount of remediation work required is extensive and site investigations are already underway to start to establish the areas that can be opened up more easily for redevelopment.

Resolved that the outcome of the consultation is collated and presented to Committee at the next meeting

OSC 31/17 **BUDGET**

Consideration was given to a budget report which presents the medium term financial plan for the Tees Valley Combined Authority. The report is out for consultation until 3rd March and will be resubmitted for final agreement at the Board meeting on 22nd March.

It was explained that this is the first year of the Combined Authority being in operation and that therefore this budget is the first for the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

The Committee were asked to consider the report and the proposed budget during the period of consultation

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

- Members questioned the additional £0.75m operating costs shown in the report. In response, the Managing Director outlined the specific areas where additional capacity had been required, compared to the original budget of the Local Enterprise Partnership and as a result of the responsibility for

- new devolved functions.
- A concern was raised that Local authorities are cutting costs and reducing staffing, yet this seems to be the opposite within the Combined Authority. It was explained that the Combined Authority is bringing additional resource into the Tees Valley as a whole and helping the authorities to secure greater income through growth in the business base. The budget shows that the Combined Authority is in fact providing significant savings to the five Local authorities. In 2016/17 constituent authority's contributions totalled £2.135m. Under these proposals for 2017/18 onwards these would reduce significantly. It is proposed to retain a small contribution of £50k per authority per annum to match fund the grant provided by central government to support Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Resolved that the budget report be noted

**OSC
32/17** **FORWARD PLAN**

Consideration was given to the O&S forward plan

A discussion was held regarding achieving quorum for future meetings under the new constitution. Quorum for meetings after 8th May 2017 will be 10 members representing at least four of the five authorities. Attendance at meetings is therefore of utmost importance. It was agreed that where attendance is not possible apologies must be submitted well in advance of the meeting to allow for the meeting to be rearranged if quorum cannot be achieved.

The dates of the next 5 meetings were agreed and calendar invites will be sent to all members next week to allow for effective forward planning

Resolved that the O&S forward plan be noted

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting to be held in Darlington on 4th April was noted