

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

Cavendish House, Stockton-On-Tees, TS17 6QY

Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 10.00am

MEETING

ATTENDEES

Members

Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE	Stockton On Tees Borough Council	SBC
Cllr Derrick Brown	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	SBC
Cllr Ian Haszeldine	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Cllr Sonia Kane	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Cllr Denise Rooney	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC
Cllr Glyn Nightingale	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Cllr Heather Scott	Darlington Borough Council	DBC
Cllr Shane Moore	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC
Cllr Jean Sharrocks	Middlesbrough Borough Council	MBC
Cllr Katie Trueman	Hartlepool Borough Council	HBC

In Attendance (Item 37/17)

Cllr Sue Jeffrey	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
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Apologies for absence

Cllr Matt Vickers	Stockton Borough Council	SBC
Cllr Philip Thomson	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC
Cllr Neil O'Brien	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	R&CBC

Officers

Sharon Jones	Governance & Scrutiny Officer	TVCA
Andrew Lewis	Managing Director	TVCA
Julie Gilhespie	Finance Director	TVCA

OSC 33/17	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	There were no interests declared	
OSC 34/17	MINUTES	
	The minutes of the meeting on 30 th November 2017 were agreed and signed as a correct record.	
OSC 35/17	ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR	
	<p>The Chair made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed Cllr Katie Trueman of Hartlepool Borough Council as a new member of the Committee. • Expressed disappointment that the Mayor was not in attendance at the meeting and requested that in future if he is unable to attend the Deputy Mayor is invited to attend in his place. <p>RESOLVED that the Chair's update be noted.</p>	
OSC 36/17	ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR	
	<p>The Managing Director made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transport for the North Strategic Transport Plan is to be launched today in Darlington. This is a significant event for the region and the strategy contains priorities for substantial investment and transformation within the Tees Valley, for example Darlington, Middlesbrough and Hartlepool stations are given prominence, as are improvements to the A1, A19 and A66. TfN will soon establish a Scrutiny Committee and the nominated member would need to establish close links with the Combined Authority's own Scrutiny Committee • Cabinet have approved the proposal for borrowing powers for the Combined Authority. These are similar to the borrowing powers of individual councils and are subject to prudential borrowing criteria. These will give us significant financial freedom and we have already started to approve projects based on this. • The Education, Employment and Skills strategy has been out for consultation. There was a seminar held as part of this for consultation with members. The turnout for this was relatively poor but there was a good response from other partners consulted. 	

	<p>A question was asked of the Managing Director regarding the news on the collapse of Carillion and how this might impact on the Combined Authority and the Tees Valley. The Managing Director advised that as of yet we are unclear on the full impact of the collapse but we know there is no direct impact on any Combined Authority projects. Clearly the news will affect those in employment with Carillion and we will assist where we can with regard to unemployment.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Managing Director's update be noted.</p>	
<p>OSC 37/17</p>	<p>Budget 2018/19 – Overview and Scrutiny Budget Task & Finish Group</p>	
	<p>The Chair thanked the members of the Task and Finish Group for their work on the budget and their input into the report.</p> <p>The report provided gives an overview of the process the group followed and details all of the questions asked and the answers provided. A summary of this report will be drafted and presented to Cabinet on 5th February by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.</p> <p>There were two questions regarding the Budget submitted in advance of the meeting. The Managing Director responded to these as follows:</p> <p>Durham Tees Valley Airport - £46,000 has been spent so far on financial and legal advice and there is more money set aside should we decide to proceed further with negotiations. It is important that we are fully informed of the financial and legal issues we would face if we do proceed and we need sufficient resources to allow the best possible advice to be provided.</p> <p>A full discussion took place regarding the money set aside for the airport and whether the amount of £500,000 was reasonable. Concerns were raised from the Committee members as to whether this money was being spent on something that would never come to fruition.</p> <p>It was agreed that Overview & Scrutiny Committee should receive a further briefing with regard to the airport and a separate meeting will be arranged as soon as is possible for this purpose.</p> <p>Staffing of the Combined Authority – There will be an increase in staff employed by the Combined Authority. The increased numbers are due to additional resource coming into the Combined Authority and an expansion of the responsibility we hold. For example, within the Education, Employment and Skills team there will be an increase in staffing but the responsibility for this was previously held by central Government, devolution has allowed us to move the responsibility and resources in house.</p> <p>Discussion also took place regarding the following aspects of the budget:</p> <p>Delegated Decisions – It was explained that the delegated decision criteria were agreed by Cabinet in July 2017. The decisions are not delegated to officers but to Cabinet members for decisions that need to be made in between the bi-monthly Cabinet meetings. All decisions</p>	

	<p>must be signed off by the Mayor and the lead Cabinet Member for that area and all of the pre-agreed criteria must be applicable. Each decision can be referred to Cabinet for full agreement if this is deemed necessary.</p> <p>A concern was raised regarding the financial limit of the decisions being £1 million. It was explained that although this is higher than that of the Local authorities the scale of projects being delivered by the Combined Authority is also a lot higher and therefore the higher limit is necessary.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a separate meeting be arranged as soon as is possible to update the Committee on the situation with DTVA • Delegated Decisions be added to the Overview & Scrutiny agenda from the next meeting to allow full transparency of these decisions. • Quarterly Budget updates be added to the Forward plan of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to allow them to keep track on the budget and spend of the Combined Authority. 	
OSC 38/17	FORWARD PLAN	
	<p>After February's meeting there are no items scheduled on the Forward plan for the Committee. The Chair invited members to put forward items they would like to see on the Forward Plan to herself or the Scrutiny officer</p> <p>RESOLVED that the forward plan be noted.</p>	
OSC 39/17	DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING	
	27 th February 2018 at 10.00am	