

AGENDA ITEM 6

REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

30 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR

GOVERNANCE AND APPOINTMENTS

SUMMARY

This report brings forward the following appointments:

- Councillor Bob Norton as the Tees Valley Combined Authority's Audit & Governance Committee's representative on the South Tees Development Corporation's Audit & Risk Committee;
- Brenda McLeish, Vikki Jackson-Smith and Annabel Turpin to the Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership;
- David Soley as Deputy Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership; and
- the nomination of Cllr Stephen Harker as the Tees Valley Combined Authority's substitute member for Transport for the North's Rail North Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet approve the appointments detailed in this report.

DETAIL

1. Article 41 of the Constitution of the South Tees Development Corporation states: "The Combined Authority's Audit & Governance Committee shall appoint one of its members to be a member of the Corporation's Audit & Risk Committee".
2. This requirement is reiterated in the Committee's Terms of Reference (Clause 2.1) which states "The A&R Committee shall, as a minimum comprise at least five members, which shall include: The Independent Chair, any 2 other nominated Board members; and a representative of the TVCA Audit & Governance Committee".
3. The Committee's Terms of Reference state that it provides "independent review of governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees financial

reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.”

4. At its meeting of 27th September 2018 the Tees Valley Combined Authority’s Audit & Governance Committee elected Councillor Bob Norton (Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council) to take up this position.
5. The Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is the principal forum for collaboration between the public and private sectors in the Tees Valley. LEPs exist across England and form part of a national network, but in the Tees Valley the partnership is strengthened by its integration within the decision-making structures of the Combined Authority with LEP members also acting as Associate Members of the Combined Authority Cabinet.
6. In order to strengthen private sector representation on the LEP, a round of recruitment has recently taken place. In particular its focus has been on increasing the diversity of the group.
7. Following a recruitment campaign in September 2018, 13 applications were received from a diverse range of sectors and across the geographies of the Tees Valley. A Recruitment Panel met on 16th October 2018 to review the applications and agreed to recommend the appointment of Brenda McLeish, Vikki Jackson-Smith and Annabel Turpin.
8. Brenda McLeish is the CEO of one of the UK’s largest training providers, Learning Curve Group.
9. The firm delivers a broad range of educational services and training programmes across diverse industry sectors and a broad range of learners, with staff numbers growing from 40 full-time employees to more than 450 and turnover increasing from £1m to in excess of £45m. Learning Curve Group now supports approximately 120,000 learners every year.
10. Vikki Jackson-Smith is the CEO of the North-East’s largest independent waste management company, J&B Recycling.
11. The company has continued to grow through investment in technology and commitment to providing skills and employment.
12. Annabel Turpin is Chief Executive & Artistic Director of ARC Stockton Arts Centre, which is one of the North-East’s most influential cultural entertainment venues.
13. A nationally and internationally respected cultural sector leader, Annabel has transformed the profile and impact of the ARC Stockton Arts Centre over the last 10 years. The introduction of innovative audience-driven payment policy heralded a significant increase in the audience participation, revenue and first-time attendance at the venue, and Annabel travels extensively to share the success and methodology behind ARC.
14. In order to strengthen the leadership function of the LEP, it was agreed that a Deputy Chair would be appointed. The Deputy Chair will operate as a substitute for the Chair in representing the LEP at meetings with stakeholders, in undertaking relevant activities and retaining the visibility of the LEP, both locally and nationally, and in attending official meetings including TVCA Cabinet.

15. Following a robust process for selection, it was agreed by the LEP, to recommend the appointment of David Soley as Deputy Chair.
16. Transport for the North, Northern England's sub-national Transport Body, has requested TVCA nominate a formal substitute member for the Rail North Committee.
17. Membership of the committee is restricted to Transport for the North Board members or substitute members, and as such this nomination is TVCA's Transport for the North Board substitute member, Councillor Stephen Harker.
18. Cabinet is asked to confirm the appointments as set out above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

19. Support for the governance of the Tees Valley Combined Authority is provided from within the Authority's core budget, as agreed by Cabinet through the annual budget process, and funded through resources devolved from central government.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

20. The report relates to the Constitution for the Combined Authority which sets out the appropriate statutory framework. The Constitution came in to effect on 8th May 2017 and is legally binding.
21. The report also relates to the Constitution of the South Tees Development Corporation, which sets out the appropriate statutory framework. The Constitution came in to effect on 13th June 2017 and is legally binding.

RISK ASSESSMENT

22. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION

23. Appointments are made in accordance with the Combined Authority Constitution and the processes governing each Local Authority.

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