
Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting held at Cavendish House, Teesdale Business Park, Stockton-On-Tees, TS17 6QY at 09:30 am on Thursday, 17th October, 2019.

Present:

Cllr Stephenson (Chair) (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)
Cllr Rooney (Vice Chair) (Middlesbrough Council)
Cllr Black (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Cllr Brown (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Cllr Clark (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)
Cllr Harker (Darlington Borough Council)
Cllr Hobson (Middlesbrough Council)
Cllr Jeffrey (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)
Cllr Loynes (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Cllr McTigue (Middlesbrough Council)
Cllr Renton (Darlington Borough Council)
Cllr Riordan (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)

Officers:

Sharon Jones (Governance & Scrutiny Officer - TVCA)
Julie Gilhespie (Chief Executive -TVCA)
Tom Bryant (Head of Transport & Infrastructure -TVCA)
Andrew Nixon (Monitoring Officer -TVCA)

Also in attendance:

Cllr Heather Scott (Leader) (Darlington Borough Council)

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Barlow (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)
Cllr Jones (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)
Cllr Jones (Darlington Borough Council)

1 Declarations of interest

There were no interests declared.

2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Norma Stephenson was nominated by Cllr Denise Rooney as Chair of the Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Sue Jeffrey.

Cllr Stephenson was appointed as Chair of the Committee.

Cllr Denise Rooney was nominated by Cllr Sue Jeffrey as Vice Chair of the Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Stephen Harker.

Cllr Rooney is appointed as Vice Chair of the Committee.

3 Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true record

4 Chief Executive's Update

A report was circulated updating members of the Committee on significant recent developments at the Tees Valley Combined Authority and informing them of the items on the agenda for the next Cabinet meeting on 25th October.

A question was raised regarding the confidential Cabinet papers and whether the Committee are entitled to have sight of these reports. It was confirmed by the Monitoring Officer that the Committee are entitled to see confidential papers where the information contained within them is relevant to an action or a decision that Members are reviewing or scrutinising, or where it relates to a review contained in the work programme of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive's update is noted.

5 Strategic Transport Plan

The Committee received a presentation from Tom Bryant, Head of Transport & Infrastructure and Cllr Heather Scott, Portfolio Holder for Transport. The presentation gave an overview of the Strategic Transport Plan. The plan has been drafted in conjunction with the five Local Authorities.

A discussion took place following the presentation and the following points were covered:

- Access for disabled passengers and those travelling with pushchairs should be a priority within the plan. Although Billingham Station is the only station in the North East with no disabled access there are others which have limited or restricted access. The Connect TV map will be reviewed to see if this can show what level of access each station within Tees Valley has currently.

- Timescale for the plan – there are currently no dates on the plan. There are also no targets showing against the objectives to allow for monitoring of progress. It was explained that the Plan is a ten year plan covering 2020-2030 but that it will be regularly reviewed over this period and will need to be responsive to change. Targets will be written into the plan further down the line but at this stage it is deemed still too early to set specific targets.

- Prioritising Funding – It was explained that the plan is currently being reviewed so that priorities can be set, and highlighted, in advance of submission to Cabinet in January 2020.

Bus services -The aspiration for bus services in the future is to be able to provide demand responsive services which allow for travel for both work and social purposes. There will need to be some work carried out regarding funding in this area as Bus Operators will only provide services where it is commercially viable for them. It is not yet know how this funding will be provided, but any decisions made in this area will be subject to the Combined Authority decision making process.

RESOLVED that the presentation is noted.

6 Delegated Decisions

A report was circulated detailing the delegated decisions signed off by the Combined Authority between April-October 2019.

The Committee expressed an interest in learning more about the Strength in Places Fund for a Hydrogen Economy Project. It was agreed that this should be added to the forward plan for the Committee and Chris Beck, Director of Business & Skills be invited to deliver a presentation on this topic.

RESOLVED that the report is noted.

7 Meetings and Forward Plan for Civic Year 2019/2020

A meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible between the Chair, Vice Chair and Scrutiny officer to agree a meeting schedule and forward plan for the Committee.

The Finance Sub-Committee role was explained and a meeting of this group will be convened in line with the budget setting process.

8 Date and time of next meeting

Next meeting TBC