

**AGENDA ITEM 7****REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY  
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE****22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2022****OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT****SUMMARY**

This report summarises the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the period of May 2021 to April 2022.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet note the content of the report.

**DETAIL****THE COMMITTEE**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee consists of 15 members, 3 nominated from each Constituent Authority, with 15 substitute members. The Committee is required, as far as reasonably practical, to reflect the balance of political parties of the Constituent Authorities collectively.
2. The objective of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to scrutinise the decision-making of the Combined Authority and the Tees Valley Mayor.
3. This includes:
  - Monitoring the decisions or other actions taken by the Cabinet (or Officers exercising authority delegated by Cabinet either specifically or as a consequence of the TVCA Constitution) or the Mayor.
  - Submitting reports and making recommendations for improvements or change;
  - Reviewing the Strategies and policies of the Combined Authority and holding the Mayor, other Cabinet members, and officers, to account for their delivery.
4. The Committee has the power to “call-in” for review or scrutiny, decisions made by the Combined Authority before they are implemented.
5. Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE, Stockton Borough Council, resigned from her position on the Committee in October 2021 and her contribution and work as Chair of the Committee is acknowledged and appreciated.

6. The Chair of the Committee for the period of May 2021 - April 2022 has been Councillor John Hobson, Middlesbrough Council. The Vice-Chair has been Councillor Sandra Smith, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council.
7. Following appointment, the Chair of the Committee met with the Tees Valley Mayor for an introductory meeting. One outcome of that meeting was that the Chair would be invited to attend the confidential sections of Cabinet meetings.
8. In accordance with legislative requirements, the Committee returned to in person meetings in August 2021 following streamed meetings being held during the period of the coronavirus pandemic.
9. The Committee have met 4 times during the municipal year.
10. Of the 4 meetings held, all were quorate meetings.
11. The Mayor has not attended any meetings of the Committee during this municipal year.
12. The Monitoring Officer attends every meeting of the Committee and at the September meeting, provided a briefing on the statutory powers of the Committee and the legislation that defines these powers. In addition, all new members have had the opportunity to attend a Members Induction.
13. The Committee met in October 2021 to conduct an Informal Work Planning Meeting to consider future areas of interest.
14. Work on a review of the TVCA Constitution began with a comparative exercise of other Mayoral Combined Authorities' Constitutions to determine if there were any deficiencies. Following preliminary work, with no issues identified this project was discontinued. The Committee has now turned its attention to how they address issues of quoracy of their Scrutiny Committee. This work is currently ongoing.
15. The Committee have continued to utilise the smaller Task & Finish group format to focus on financial aspects of the Combined Authority. The group met to scrutinise the Combined Authority Budget for 2022/23 in December 2021.
16. The Group Chief Executive provides written updates of key activities undertaken by the Combined Authority in advance of each meeting and attends meetings to give a verbal update and answer any questions. There is also the facility for the Committee to provide written questions to the Group Chief Executive in advance of meetings.
17. Committee Members participated in a Statutory Member Induction and Site tours of both Teesworks and Teesside International Airport.
18. In February 2022, it was with much sadness that the Committee learned of the death of Councillor Brenda Loynes, of Hartlepool Borough Council. Councillor Loynes was a valued member of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee since 2019, and greatly missed by all those who had the pleasure of working with her on the Committee. A minute's silence for Cllr Loynes was held at the July meeting which was the first meeting of the Committee since her passing.
19. The Committee has not utilised its power of "call-in", in the period of May 2021 - April 2022.

## **2021-2022 WORK PROGRAMME**

20. The Committee have carried out their Overview and Scrutiny duties in some of the

key areas of Combined Authority business:

**i. Portfolio Updates**

The Committee received a full update from the Portfolio holder in each of the following areas of Combined Authority business:

- **Culture Programme – Councillor Shane Moore**

A presentation was delivered at the August 2021 Committee providing an update on the work of the Task Force and Recovery Programme for the Visitor Economy and Cultural Industries sectors. The Portfolio holder attended the meeting to answer questions and provide any further information where requested.

- **Transport – Councillor Heather Scott**

A report was provided to the October 2021 Committee on activity relating to Transport over the past year. The Portfolio holder attended the meeting to answer questions and provide any further information where requested.

**ii. South Tees Development Corporation**

The Committee have received regular updates from the Chief Executive regarding the progress of the South Tees Development Corporation. At the August 2021 meeting a presentation was delivered in a confidential session, updating the Committee on the key milestones and financial performance for the reporting period, as well as progress of on-site development.

**iii. Investment Plan Delivery Update**

A Report setting out the delivery of investment funding for the period ending September 2021 was provided to the January 2022 Committee by the Group Director of Finance & Resources. Members had the opportunity to ask questions not covered in the content of the Report.

**iv. Budget**

The Committee continue to utilise the smaller “Finance and Resources Sub-Committee” task and finish group format to look at matters relating to the Budget and Financial aspects of TVCA.

Membership of this Sub-Committee consists of 5 Councillors representing 3 of the 5 Constituent Authorities. The Chair of the Sub-Committee is Councillor Sandra Smith of Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council.

Questions from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee members regarding the budget for 2022-2023 were put forward to the Group Director of Finance and Resources at a meeting designated specifically for budget scrutiny. The sessions allowed the questions to be answered in detail and further information provided where necessary.

A final report was provided to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at their January meeting and was subsequently submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

**v. Teesside International Airport (TIA)**

Members were provided with an update on TIA at the October 2021 meeting and were informed on changes in ownership arrangements, the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and the progress against the Business Plan. The updated TIA Business Plan (2021-2029) was also provided to the Committee in a confidential session where Members had the opportunity to submit questions on the Business Plan.

**2022 - 2023 WORK PROGRAMME**

21. The work programme for 2022 – 2023 is yet to be agreed. A discussion on the priorities and work programme for these meetings will be taking place at the first meeting of the Committee following the AGM. A work programme for the year ahead will be drafted following this meeting.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

22. None

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

23. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee provides an important statutory role in contributing to the good governance and oversight of the decisions of the Combined Authority and the Mayor on behalf of the Constituent Authorities and the public.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

24. Not Applicable

**CONSULTATION**

25. Not Applicable

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