

AGENDA ITEM 5**REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****17th DECEMBER 2021****REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER****GOVERNANCE AND APPOINTMENTS****SUMMARY**

This report summarises changes to membership of Tees Valley Combined Authority committees which have taken place since the previous Cabinet meeting.

This report also details the proposed amendment to article 62 of the TVCA Constitution following a request by the LEP Board at their meeting in October.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet agrees;

1. the appointments as set out in this report
2. the amendments proposed to article 62 of the TVCA Constitution as discussed in this report.

DETAIL**Audit and Governance Committee**

1. At its meeting on 1st December 2021 the Tees Valley Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee nominated Councillor Paul Crudass as Chair for the remainder of the civic year 2021/22.
2. Cabinet are asked to note the appointment of Councillor Lockwood from Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council on to the Audit & Governance Committee, following the resignation of Councillor Gallagher from the Committee. Councillor Lockwood will also be the representative on the South Tees Development Corporation Audit & Risk Committee. This appointment has been ratified by The Monitoring Officer to allow for the Councillor's attendance at the December Audit & Governance Committee meeting.
3. Cabinet are also asked to note the appointment of Councillor Brian Hubbard from Middlesbrough Council. This appointment has also been ratified by The Monitoring Officer to allow for the Councillor's attendance at the December Audit & Governance Committee meeting.

Transport Committee

4. At its meeting on 13th October, the Transport Committee nominated Councillor Cameron Stokell as the Deputy Chair of the Committee.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

5. Cabinet are asked to note the appointment of Councillor Jonathan Dulston from Darlington Borough Council on to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This appointment has been ratified by The Monitoring Officer to allow for the Councillor's attendance at the October meeting of the Committee.
6. Cabinet are also asked to note the appointments of Councillor Steve Nelson and Councillor Pauline Beall from Stockton Borough Council following the resignation of Councillor Norma Stephenson and Councillor Chris Barlow from the Committee. These appointments have also been ratified by the Monitoring Officer.

Local Enterprise Partnership Membership

7. At its meeting on 18th October, the LEP Board agreed that Yasmin Khan will be the Inclusivity Champion, Stephen Gill and Mark South the SME Champions and Annabel Turpin the GDPR representative.
8. The LEP Board also agreed that Matthew Ord will be the Substitute LEP Board member on the Transport for the North Board.
9. Jen Vanderhoven has tendered her resignation from the LEP Board. Recruitment of a new member will commence in due course.

Freeport Board

10. Siobhan McArdle, as Chair of the LEP Board, will also sit on the Freeport Board. This appointment has been ratified by the Monitoring Officer to allow for her attendance at the October meeting of the Board.

TVCA CONSTITUTION

11. The LEP Chair has identified three priorities for the LEP:-
 - Small Business Growth and Scale-Up;
 - Skills;
 - The Recovery of the Visitor Economy following Covid-19.

The Chair will lead on the first of these priorities but would like to delegate the remaining priorities to the most qualified LEP members, while allowing them to drive these agendas with the authority of Deputy Chairs. This would mean appointing a second Deputy Chair.

12. It is proposed therefore to amend Article 62 of the TVCA Constitution to read as follows:-

“The Local Enterprise Partnership shall appoint one of its private sector members to be its Chair and Deputy Chair(s), following a formal process set out in the Terms of Reference for the Local Enterprise Partnership. The LEP board may appoint up to two Deputy Chairs. There will be broad consultation with the private sector when appointing a Chair and with all LEP Board members in relation to the Deputy Chair(s). The term of membership for the Chair and Deputy Chair(s) shall be two years extendable by one further term of two years, unless otherwise agreed by Cabinet and subject to alignment with the individual’s term of membership. ~~as a private sector representative.~~”

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. 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

14. The report relates to the Constitution of the Combined Authority which sets out the appropriate statutory framework. The Constitution came into effect on 8th May 2017 and is legally binding.

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. 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

16. The five Constituent Local Authority Leaders have been appropriately consulted on appointments, and nominations have been made through each council. The Mayor has also been consulted on these proposals.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

17. There is a commitment from Cabinet to achieve a 50/50 gender balance and to increase overall diversity on the LEP. Although delayed by the COVID-19 outbreak it is intended that any recruitment process will secure more diverse membership of the LEP.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

18. The items in this report have been circulated to LEP members in advance of coming forward to Cabinet.

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