

DETAIL OF THE SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

The term of office for representatives is to be for one year from the date of the annual Council meeting. If a representative ceases to be a Councillor, or wishes to resign from the Scrutiny Panel, the relevant Council shall inform the Combined Authority secretariat and the replacement representative shall serve for the remainder of the original representative's term of office. This mirrors the arrangements in the South Tees Heath Scrutiny Committee.

The draft Scrutiny Protocol also provides that a Chair and Vice Chair (to come from different political groups) shall be elected annually, with the position to rotate between the Constituent Councils each year. Additionally, the Chair is required to be a member of the opposition.

The support necessary to run the Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee arrangements (ie any necessary resources and staff) is intended to be provided by the Authority of the Chair, and is to rotate annually between the Tees Valley Authorities in the same way.

It is intended that by operating the support in this way that the Scrutiny arrangements can be run at little or no extra cost to the Combined Authority, with the support work being absorbed into the relevant Authority's day to day work. This is similar to the arrangement already in place at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, where it is working effectively. The democratic services officers already in place at Manchester City Council run the scrutiny panel in practice, and have been able to absorb the extra work into their own department. West Yorkshire Combined Authority have also verbally confirmed to us that there is to be no additional cost associated with their own scrutiny arrangements, as the work would be absorbed by existing staff, in their case staff at what used to be their Passenger Transport Executive

With regard to the call in procedure, Members of the Scrutiny Panel shall have the power to call in any decision by the Executive Board or of the Combined Authority.

5 Members of the Scrutiny Panel are required to object to a decision before a call-in can be implemented, and are to have a 5 day period following the publication of any decision to effect the call-in.

Manchester Scrutiny Panels work involves a high level overview of their own Combined Authority's growth or reform plans. Recent items from their 2013 and 2014 calendar include an overview of the Greater Manchester Growth and Reform Plan which proposes to eliminate the gap between public spending and tax generated in that region, and overview of various growth or reform projects relating to housing, worklessness, youth unemployment and infrastructure. It is therefore anticipated that the Combined Authority's work programme would encompass reviews of the Combined Authority's policies and overview of any projects which the Combined Authority set up once in existence.

This approach would ensure a greater role for elected Members in the governance of the Combined Authority (when compared to current arrangements with TVU).