



TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, 27 June, 2025 at 10.00am

Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport, Darlington

| <u>ATTENDEES</u> | |
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| Members | |
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| Mayor Ben Houchen (Chair) | Tees Valley Mayor |
| Councillor Brenda Harrison | Leader Hartlepool Borough Council |
| Councillor Stephen Harker | Leader, Darlington Borough Council |
| Mayor Chris Cooke | Leader, Middlesbrough Council |
| Councillor Alec Brown | Leader, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council |
| Councillor Lisa Evans | Leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council |
| Matthew Ord | Tees Valley Business Board |
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| Officers | |
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| Tom Bryant | Interim Chief Executive, Tees Valley Combined Authority |
| Gary Macdonald | Group Director of Finance and Resources, Tees Valley Combined Authority |
| Emma Simson | Group Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer, Tees Valley Combined Authority |
| Hugh Grime | Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Tees Valley Combined Authority |
| Sarah Brackenborough | Director of Operations, Tees Valley Combined Authority |
| Sarah Walker | Interim Director of Business Solutions, Tees Valley Combined Authority |
| Alan Weston | Head of Transport & Infrastructure, Tees Valley Combined Authority |
| Denise McGuckin | Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council |

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| Erik Scolley | Chief Executive, Middlesbrough Council |
| John Sampson | Chief Executive, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council |
| Mike Greene | Chief Executive, Stockton on Tees Borough Council |
| Rose Rouse | Chief Executive, Darlington Borough Council |
| Sally Henry | Governance Officer, TVCA |
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| | <p><u>CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS</u></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.</p> |
| TVCA 01/25 | <p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence</p> |
| TVCA 02/25 | <p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Mayor Houchen declared a non-pecuniary interest in his capacity as current Chair of STDC Board, HDC Board and MDC Board.</p> <p>Councillor Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in his capacity as a member of the STDC Board, STSC Board and Freeport Board.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke declared a non-pecuniary interest in his capacity as a member of the MDC Board.</p> <p>Councillor Harrison declared a non-pecuniary interest in her capacity as a member of the HDC Board.</p> |
| TVCA 03/25 | <p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2025 were confirmed as an accurate record.</p> |
| TVCA 04/25 | <p>GOVERNANCE & APPOINTMENTS</p> |

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| | <p>Cabinet were provided a report that detailed a number of appointments for agreement and confirmation.</p> <p>Tom Bryant advised Cabinet members that the role of Portfolio Holders will be strengthened and he stressed he is keen to ensure this is progressed quickly as this is a key strand in the Organisational Improvement Plan.</p> <p>It was also highlighted that the Chair of the Business Board and several other members of the Board are stepping down and that a recruitment campaign will start soon to strengthen the Board, ensuring the appropriate skills and sector representation. He thanked the outgoing Chair, Siobhan McArdle, for her work on the Business Board. The Business Board terms of reference will be considered and brought back to Cabinet in September.</p> <p>Cabinet were also advised that a full review of the Constitution will be undertaken to ensure it is fit for purpose.</p> <p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke requested that the portfolios were discussed immediately after the Cabinet meeting. Cabinet members agreed to discuss once the business of TVCA Cabinet had concluded.</p> <p>Cabinet was advised that TVCA Directors will be aligned to Portfolios, and that Portfolio Leads will present their Portfolio reports to Cabinet in the future.</p> <p>Councillor Harrison advised Cabinet members that she had sent an objection to the TVCA Monitoring Officer with regards to the process for appointment of the Chairs of the Development Corporations. She believes the process for appointing the Chairs was flawed and it went against what we, as a Combined Authority, are trying to do, working together collaboratively.</p> <p>The Chair advised Cabinet that the law states that the appointment of members to a Development Corporation and the appointment of Chair is a Mayoral power, but he had wanted to make the appointments in a collegiate way and obtain buy-in. There was an open application process and interview panels involving the Chief Operating Officer MDC/HDC/Chief Executive STDC and local authority Chief Executives. It was advised that the Development Corporation and TVCA Constitutions needed to be updated to reflect the law. Councillor Harrison queried whether permission from the Secretary of State was required for the appointment, and she was advised that this was not the case.</p> |
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| | <p>Cllr Harrison noted that this reflects the need for Cabinet members to receive further training on the TVCA Constitution. It was reiterated that there will be a full review of the Constitution and this will be done in a collaborative way with Cabinet.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NOTED the position of the Chair of the Combined Authority as detailed in Paragraph 2 of the report; ii. NOTED the appointment of the Deputy Mayor as detailed in Paragraph 3 of the report; iii. NOTED the appointment to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet as detailed in Paragraph 4 of the report; iv. NOTED the proposed work to strengthen the role of Portfolio Holders amongst the Members of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet and DELEGATED to the interim Chief Executive, in consultation with Cabinet Members and the Monitoring Officer, the authority to finalise the new portfolios and new way of working, SUBJECT TO the Interim Chief Executive obtaining unanimous approval of all Cabinet members to the proposal, and to make the necessary changes to the TVCA Constitution as detailed in Paragraph 5 of the report; v. APPROVED the appointments to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as detailed in Paragraph 6 of the report; vi. APPROVED the appointments to the Transport Committee as detailed in Paragraph 7 of the report; vii. APPROVED the appointments to the Audit & Governance Committee as detailed in Paragraph 8 of the report; viii. RATIFIED the amendment to the South Tees Development Corporation Constitution as approved by South Tees Development Corporation, in respect of Board quorum, as detailed in Paragraph 9.6.1 of the Report. ix. RATIFIED the proposed amendments to the South Tees Development Corporation Constitution, as detailed in Paragraph 9 SUBJECT TO approval of the same by South Tees Development Corporation Board; x. NOTED the appointments to the South Tees Development Corporation Board as detailed in Paragraph 9 of the report; xi. APPROVED the appointment of Councillor Alec Brown as Chair of South Tees Site Company Limited as detailed in Paragraph 10 of the report; xii. NOTED the appointment of the Chair of South Tees Development Corporation Audit & Governance Committee as detailed in Paragraph 11 of the report; |
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| | <p>xiii. NOTED the appointments to the Hartlepool Development Corporation Board as detailed in Paragraph 12 of the report;</p> <p>xiv. RATIFIED the amendments to the Hartlepool Development Corporation Constitution, as detailed in Paragraph 12 and Appendix 6 of the report;</p> <p>xv. RATIFIED the amendments to the Middlesbrough Development Corporation Constitution, as detailed in Paragraph 13 and Appendix 7 of the report;</p> <p>xvi. NOTED the appointments to the Middlesbrough Development Corporation Board as detailed in Paragraph 13 of the report;</p> <p>xvii. APPROVED the appointments to the Freeport Board as detailed in Paragraph 14 of the report;</p> <p>xviii. NOTED the position in respect of the Chair and Vice Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Audit & Governance Committee as detailed in Paragraph 15 of the report;</p> <p>xix. NOTED the membership of non-statutory committees as detailed in Paragraph 16 of the report;</p> <p>xx. NOTED the update on the membership of the Business Board, the proposed process to recruit a new Chair and Board Members and the proposal to review the Terms of Reference as detailed in Paragraph 17 of the report;</p> <p>xxi. NOTED the appointments to external bodies as detailed in Paragraph 18 of the report;</p> <p>xxii. NOTED the appointments to officer groups at Paragraph 19 of the report;</p> <p>xxiii. NOTED the members' allowances scheme for 2024-25 at paragraph 20 and Appendix 2 of the report;</p> <p>xxiv. APPROVED the minor amendments to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution documents as set out at paragraph 21.2 and Appendix 3 of the report;</p> <p>xxv. APPROVED further amendments to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution as referred to at Paragraph 21.6 and Appendix 8 of the report and</p> <p>xxvi. NOTED that a full review of the Constitution will be undertaken collaboratively with the constituent local authorities, aligned to the Best Value Notice Organisational Improvement Plan and presented to a future Cabinet for approval, including the changes required to the Mayoral Development Corporation's Constitutions.</p> |
| TVCA 05/25 | APPOINTMENT AND REMUNERATION OF CHAIRS TO THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARDS |

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| | <p>Cabinet were presented a report which lay out the proposals for the appointment of the three Development Corporation Chair roles, including recommendations for remuneration. Cabinet were also invited to consider and approve the Tees Valley Combined Authority's Group Members' Allowances Scheme.</p> <p>It was recommended that Cabinet members:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the appointment of David Smith as a Member and Chair of the South Tees Development Corporation. ii. Note the appointment of Tony Parkinson as a Member and Chair of the Middlesbrough Development Corporation. iii. Note the appointment of Mark Robinson as a Member and Chair of the Hartlepool Development Corporation. iv. Adopt the Group Members' Allowances Scheme. <p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>No comments or question were received.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Noted the appointment of David Smith as a Member and Chair of the South Tees Development Corporation. iii. Noted the appointment of Tony Parkinson as a Member and Chair of the Middlesbrough Development Corporation. iv. Noted the appointment of Mark Robinson as a Member and Chair of the Hartlepool Development Corporation. v. Adopt the Group Members' Allowances Scheme. |
| TVCA 06/25 | <p>TEES VALLEY MAYOR – SOUTH TEES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ANNUAL REVIEW</p> <p>Cabinet were provided a general update and summary of the key activities of the South Tees Development Corporation (STDC), together with confirmation of the Tees Valley Mayor's review of the continuing existence of the STDC.</p> <p>It was recommended that Cabinet noted the report.</p> <p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>No comments or questions were received.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the update.</p> |

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| TVCA 07/25 | <p>TEES VALLEY MAYOR – MIDDLESBROUGH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ANNUAL REVIEW</p> <p>Cabinet were provided a general update and summary of the key activities of the Middlesbrough Development Corporation (MDC), together with confirmation of the Tees Valley Mayor's review of the continuing existence of the STDC.</p> <p>It was recommended that Cabinet noted the report.</p> <p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke commented that the transfer of assets had not gone as hoped and a better way of working was needed for the MDC.</p> <p>The Chair commented that the new Chair of the Middlesbrough DC Board has been tasked with making sure it reflects both what the Combined Authority and Middlesbrough want for the Middlesbrough DC area. Tom Bryant noted that conversations have already taken place with the Middlesbrough Chief Executive and Middlesbrough Mayor and they were all in agreement that the Masterplan for the next 3-5 years needs to be right.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the update.</p> |
| TVCA 08/25 | <p>TEES VALLEY MAYOR – HARTLEPOOL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ANNUAL REVIEW</p> <p>Cabinet were provided a general update and summary of the key activities of the Hartlepool Development Corporation (HDC), together with confirmation of the Tees Valley Mayor's review of the continuing existence of the HDC.</p> <p>It was recommended that Cabinet noted the report.</p> <p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>No comments or questions were received.</p> |

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| | RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the update. |
| TVCA 09/25 | <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the schedule of future Cabinet meetings.</p> <p>Date and Time of Future Meetings for 2025/2026</p> <p>Friday, 26th September 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 12th December 2025 • Friday 30th January 2026 • Friday 20th March 2026 • Friday 26th June 2026 <p>All of the above meetings are to commence at 10:00am</p> |