



Minutes

TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

Friday 30th June 2023 at 10am

Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport, Darlington

These Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next Cabinet meeting and are therefore subject to amendments.

<u>ATTENDEES</u>	
<u>Members</u>	
Mayor Ben Houchen (Chair)	Tees Valley Mayor
Councillor Stephen Harker	Leader, Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Mike Young	Leader, Hartlepool Borough Council
Chris Cooke	Mayor of Middlesbrough
Councillor Alec Brown	Leader, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Councillor Robert Cook	Leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Siobhan McArdle	Chair, Business Board
<u>Officers and Others in Attendance</u>	
Julie Gilhespie	Group Chief Executive, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Emma Simson	Interim Group Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Gary Macdonald	Group Director of Finance & Resources, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Tom Bryant	Assistant Director Transport & Infrastructure, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Shona Duncan	Head of Business & Skills, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Mike Greene	Managing Director, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
John Sampson	Managing Director, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Denise McGuckin	Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council

Ian Williams	Chief Executive, Darlington Borough Council
Clive Heaphy	Interim Managing Director, Middlesbrough Council
Sally Henry	Governance Officer, TVCA
<u>Apologies</u>	None

TVCA 01/23	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>
TVCA 02/23	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>The Leaders of Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Redcar & Cleveland Councils as members of Development Corporation Boards, declared an interest in item 3.</p> <p>The Tees Valley Mayor declared an interest in item 3 as a member of the Freeport Board.</p> <p>The Leaders of the constituent authorities declared an interest in item 10 as funding recipients, should the Adult Education budget be approved.</p>
TVCA 03/23	<p>GOVERNANCE & APPOINTMENTS</p> <p>Cabinet were invited to consider several items of business at its Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair invited Cabinet members to ask questions or comment on the paper and appointments. No questions or comments were received.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. agreed the appointments as set out at Appendix 1; ii. agreed the members' allowances scheme for 2023-24 at Appendix 2; iii. noted (a) the approval of the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting of 17th March 2023 and (b) that the interim Monitoring Officer will review the Constitution in time for the next TVCA Cabinet meeting.

<p>TVCA 04/23</p>	<p>MAYOR'S UPDATE REPORT</p> <p>The Chair introduced a report providing a general update on the key activities of the Mayor and Combined Authority since the last Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>Cabinet were invited to ask questions or comment on the report. No questions or comments were received.</p> <p>The Mayor congratulated all the Local Authority Leaders on their recent election successes and said he looks forwards to working with them all.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the update.</p>
<p>TVCA 05/23</p>	<p>OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>Cabinet were provided a report which summarised the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the period of July 2022 to June 2023.</p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to ask questions or comment on the report. No questions or comments were received.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the report.</p>
<p>TVCA 06/23</p>	<p>QUARTER 4 BUDGET REPORT AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE</p> <p>Cabinet was provided a report which provided an update on the financial position of the Combined Authority for the period ending 31 March 2023 and presented a revised Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).</p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to ask questions or comment on the report.</p> <p>A Cabinet member enquired why there appeared to be an increase in borrowing in 2024/25 but a decrease in expenditure?</p> <p>The Group Director of Finance & Resources confirmed that the borrowing levels in the earlier years of the Investment Plan are front loaded linked to the proposed programmes and projects that are designed for delivery earlier in the plans to drive economic growth. He further explained that the allocations in later years have confirmed allocations and extrapolations of those allocations. A prudent approach is taken to the potential for future Government grant allocations and additional funding therefore no additional allocations are shown until confirmed which is why the later years total funding appears to reduce.</p>

	<p>As such borrowing will appear as a greater proportion of total funding until additional Government grant allocations are confirmed nearer to the time. The MTFP is updated quarterly to capture new allocations and changes to overall funding so that TVCA Cabinet is kept informed of any changes.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Noted the quarter 4 outturn position for 2022/23; and ii. Noted the revised Medium-Term Financial Plan.
<p>TVCA 07/23</p>	<p>TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT</p> <p>Cabinet members were provided a report which advised of the 2022/23 performance against the treasury management and prudential indicators set in the Treasury Management Strategy, approved by the Authority in January 2022.</p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to ask questions or comment on the report. No questions or comments were received.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the contents of the report.</p>
<p>TVCA 08/23</p>	<p>LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) UPDATE</p> <p>Cabinet members were provided a report which detailed progress made on the implementation of the approved Tees Valley LEP Integration Plan, including the rebrand to Tees Valley Business Board.</p> <p>The Chair of the Business Board advised Cabinet that good progress has been made in implementing the LEP Integration Plan, including recruitment to the Tees Valley Business Board. Following a recruitment campaign, a number of Expressions of Interest have been received from applicants with a good geographical and sectoral spread. The Tees Valley Mayor suggested it would be useful for Cabinet members to review the draft shortlist of Business Board members prior to the final paper being presented to Cabinet in September.</p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to ask questions or comment on the report. No comments were received.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Noted the government's approval of the LEP Integration Plan.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Noted Tees Valley LEP has rebranded to Tees Valley Business Board. iii. Noted progress made on the implementation of the approved Integration Plan.
<p>TVCA 09/23</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS 2024</p> <p>Cabinet were provided a report which advised of the need to appoint a returning officer (CARO) in relation to the Mayoral election in 2024.</p> <p>The Group Chief Executive advised that TVCA do not have the resources or necessary experience themselves so are very supportive of the recommendation within the report.</p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to ask questions or comment on the report. No comments were received.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet agreed to appoint Mike Greene, the Local Returning Officer of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council as the Combined Authority Returning Officer in relation to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Mayoral Election 2024.</p>
<p>TVCA 10/23</p>	<p>ADULT SKILLS</p> <p><i>At this point in the meeting, a resolution was proposed to exclude the press and public under paragraph 3 of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, in order that Cabinet could consider matters of a confidential nature. The resolution was proposed by Cllr Young and seconded by Cllr Brown.</i></p> <p>Cabinet were invited to approve the allocations to be made to the adult skills providers for the 2023/24 academic year, for the Adult Education Budget and the Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ).</p> <p>Cabinet were also advised of the approach to implementing changes to funding rates, and the required procurement of the adult skills provision from the 2025/26 academic year.</p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to ask questions or comment on the report and allocations..</p> <p>A Cabinet member enquired about the allocation of funds for low level access courses. He was advised that, as part of the Adult Education Budget, a decision was made to procure and ringfence £3m for Learning for Inclusion. TVCA are undertaking a review of Learning for Inclusion and once this is complete in October, consideration will be given to the approach of a funding uplift.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Approves the allocations to the adult skills providers for the 2023/24 academic year as set out in appendix 1. ii. Notes the approach to applying funding rate uplifts from 1 August 2022. iii. Notes the approach to the procurement of adult skills provision for the 2025/26 academic year, with a further report to be received to agree the procurement process and specification. iv. Agrees that, following the approval of the allocations set out in Appendix 1, the operational management of the Adult Education Budget and the FCFJ is handled in line with existing TVCA processes, including in year additional funding awards and reductions which shall be approved by the Group Director for Finance and Resources.
	<p>The Chair advised Cabinet members that it is convention for the Leaders to agree Portfolios amongst themselves. He advised that certain decisions are delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with The Mayor and Portfolio Holder. Portfolios broadly reflect the responsibilities of the Combined Authority and further information will be forwarded to Cabinet members after the meeting.</p> <p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Friday 22nd September 2023 at 10am</p>