



# Minutes

TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 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.

<b><u>ATTENDEES</u></b>	
<b><u>Members</u></b>	
Mayor Ben Houchen (Chair)	Tees Valley Mayor
Councillor Stephen Harker	Leader, Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Mike Young	Leader, Hartlepool Borough Council
Councillor Robert Cook	Leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Matthew Ord	Deputy Chair, Tees Valley Business Board
<b><u>Officers and Others in Attendance</u></b>	
Julie Gilhespie	Group Chief Executive, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Emma Simson	Acting Group Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Victoria Smith	Group Financial Controller, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Tom Bryant	Assistant Director Transport & Infrastructure, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Helen Kemp	Head of Business & Skills, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Ged Morton	Director of Corporate Services, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Denise McGuckin	Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council
Ian Williams	Chief Executive, Darlington Borough Council
Sally Henry	Governance Officer, TVCA

<u>Apologies</u>	
Councillor Alec Brown	Leader, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Mayor Chris Cooke	Leader, Middlesbrough Council
Siobhan McArdle	Chair, Tees Valley Business Board

TVCA 18/23	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies received and noted as above.</p>
TVCA 19/23	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest declared.</p>
TVCA 20/23	<p><b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that</b> the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record.</p>
TVCA 21/23	<p><b>MAYOR'S UPDATE REPORT</b></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 members were invited to ask questions or comment on the report.</p> <p>Councillor Cook commented that he is pleased to see the Investment Zone Programme progressing for the Tees Valley. He noted that the report states that the Tees Valley Investment Zone will focus on digital and technology high growth clusters in Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and the Airport. He asked if TVCA will make a commitment to support the growth of a care and health technology cluster as part of the Care and Health Innovation Zone in Stockton? He advised Cabinet that over one third of all digital businesses in Tees Valley are in Stockton meaning that this is the heart of the sector in the region so to increase sector growth, we must invest in this area.</p>

	<p>The Mayor advised that, following the Autumn statement, Tees Valley will receive £160m for Investment Zones and while we are currently working with Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, the Investment Zone programme is not specific to those areas and that he fully committed to work with Stockton.</p> <p>Councillor Cook commented that he is pleased to see that losses at the Airport are down from last year. He asked whether the MTFP for the airport can be presented to a future TVCA Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>The Mayor advised that Council's are shareholders in their own right and have access to the same information TVCA has, as well as the Airport Board comprising of Local Authority representatives - appointed by each council - and they receive financial updates so he encouraged Cabinet members to speak to their TIA Board representatives.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet noted the update.</p>
<p>TVCA 22/23</p>	<p><b>GOVERNANCE &amp; APPOINTMENTS</b></p> <p>Cabinet was presented a report which had several items for noting and approval.</p> <p>Cabinet was informed of the sad death of Jim Whiston who had been a valued member of the Independent Remuneration Panel. Cabinet extended their sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues.</p> <p>Cabinet was invited to ratify the appointments set out in Paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of the Governance &amp; Appointments Cabinet Report.</p> <p>Cabinet was invited to note the proposed position in respect of the term of Membership for Independent Members of the TVCA Audit &amp; Governance Committee.</p> <p>Cabinet was invited to ask questions or comment on these items. There were no questions or comments.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Expressed their sadness at the death of Jim Whiston and extended their sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues;</li> <li>ii. agreed the appointments set out in the report;</li> </ul>

	<p>iii. noted the proposed position in respect of the term of Membership for Independent Members of the TVCA Audit &amp; Governance Committee.</p>
<p>TVCA 23/23</p>	<p><b>QUARTER 2 BUDGET REPORT AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE</b></p> <p>Cabinet was provided a report which provided an update on the financial position of the Combined Authority for the period ending 30 September 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>There were no questions or comments.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approve the quarter 2 outturn position for 2023/24; and</li> <li>ii. Approve the revised Medium-Term Financial Plan.</li> </ul>
<p>TVCA 24/23</p>	<p><b>TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW 2023/24</b></p> <p>Cabinet was informed of the mid-year performance against the treasury management and prudential indicators set in the Treasury Management Strategy approved by the authority in March 2023.</p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to ask questions or comment on the report.</p> <p>There were no questions or comments.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet approved the content of the update report.</p>
<p>TVCA 24/23</p>	<p><b>ADOPTION OF INVESTMENT PLAN, BUDGET 2024-25 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN</b></p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to consider and reconfirm the high-level financial allocations for the Investment Plan 2023-29 and consider and approve the Draft Budget for 2024-25 for the purposes of consultation.</p> <p>It was noted that this item would be brought back to the January Cabinet for final approval/amends following the consultation process.</p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to ask questions or comment on the report.</p>

	<p>Councillor Harker enquired when the Overview &amp; Scrutiny sub-committee were meeting to discuss the draft budget. He was advised that the TVCA Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee had met earlier this week as part of the consultation process, and they will produce a report that will come to the January Cabinet.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet considered and reconfirmed the high-level financial allocations for the Investment Plan 2023-29 and considered and approved the Draft Budget for 2024-25 for the purposes of consultation.</p>
<p>TVCA 25/23</p>	<p><b>TVCA INVESTMENT PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT</b></p> <p>Cabinet was provided a report which provided an update of the TVCA Investment Plan Performance.</p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to ask questions or comment on the report.</p> <p>Councillor Young commented that the report showed we are on track which is impressive to see.</p> <p>The Group Chief Executive, Julie Gilhespie asked Cabinet members if they had any comments on the format of the report as this is the first time this report has been presented to Cabinet. There were no comments.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet approved the content of the update report.</p>
<p>26/2023</p>	<p><b>DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT</b></p> <p><i>At this point in the meeting, a resolution should have been proposed to exclude the press and public under paragraphs 1 &amp; 2 of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, in order that Cabinet could consider matters of a confidential nature.</i></p> <p><i>The Mayor suggested that the report be discussed without excluding press and public, but without mentioning the individual's name and Cabinet agreed.</i></p> <p>In line with the requirements of the s113 of the TVCA Constitution, Cabinet was asked to approve the re-grade of Assistant Director of Infrastructure to Director grade.</p> <p>Cabinet was advised that the proposal does not seek to directly increase headcount, rather to re-grade an existing post to reflect the level of responsibility and budget accountability in the post given the expansion of the Transport portfolio to include Infrastructure and Project Development as</p>

	<p>well as its significant increase in budgetary responsibility in light of the current and anticipated level of transport spend.</p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to ask questions or comment on the report.</p> <p>Cllr Cook commented that the Mayor clearly recognises the importance of investing in additional capacity at Director level to ensure that TVCA can deliver the ambitious plans for the regional economic growth and offered his support with this appointment.</p> <p>He added that one third of the Tees Valley economy is in Stockton and they have a transformational capital programme in delivery and expressed his disappointment that the importance of appropriate leadership and Director-level capacity is not supported by some councillors in Stockton-on-Tees. He further advised that it is vital that Stockton continues to grow its economy in this important area, despite challenges to public finances. This will lead to a more prosperous future for everyone and in order to do that we need to invest in capacity to deliver the economy.</p> <p>The Mayor commented that he is disappointed that there has been a delay in the appointment of a Director of Regeneration on Stockton and that he shared Cllr Cook's frustrations with the situation in Stockton. He added that he hoped the appointment could be made soon and the situation could move forward positively.</p> <p>Ian Williams enquired whether, given the importance of the programme, there is sufficient capacity in the Transport team to deliver. He was advised that the first role of the Director will be to restructure the team to ensure there is sufficient capacity. There is funding within the CRSTS for this and it will not affect TVCA's core budget.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet approved the re-grade of the Assistant Director of Infrastructure to Director and as a result, promoted Tom Bryant to Director.</p>
	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 10am</p> <p><b>At this point, The Mayor wished everybody a Merry Christmas and closed the meeting.</b></p>