



TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

Friday, 26 September, 2025 at 10.00am

Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport, Darlington

<u>ATTENDEES</u>	
Members	
Mayor Ben Houchen (Chair)	Tees Valley Mayor
Councillor Stephen Harker	Leader, Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Brenda Harrison	Leader, Hartlepool Borough Council
Mayor Chris Cooke	Leader, Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Lisa Evans	Leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Officers	
Tom Bryant	Chief Executive, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Jodie Townsend	Interim Monitoring Officer, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Sarah Brackenborough	Director of Operations, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Jo Moore (by Teams)	Interim Director of Finance & Resources, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Craig Peacock	Director of Inward Investment & Marketing, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Sarah Walker	Interim Director of Business Solutions, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Julie Hurley	Interim Director of Infrastructure, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Rose Rouse	Chief Executive, Darlington Borough Council,
Denise McGuckin	Chief Executive, Hartlepool Borough Council
Erik Scollay	Chief Executive, Middlesbrough Council
Mike Greene	Chief Executive, Stockton on Tees Borough Council
Jacqui Banks	Business Solutions Manager – Adult Skills
Sally Gardner	Business Solutions Manager - Skills

Sally Henry	Governance Officer, TVCA
Also in attendance :-Rob Whiteman	Chair of the Independent Advisory Board (by Teams)

These Minutes capture the key points and decisions of the meeting, but they do not attempt to reproduce every word spoken. The full recording can be found [here](#)

	<p><u>CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS</u></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.</p>
TVCA 33/25	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Councillor Alec Brown, Leader, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council Brian Archer, Managing Director, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council</p>
TVCA 34/25	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>All Local Authority Leaders declared an interest as delivery partners on the Connect to Work project.</p>
TVCA 35/25	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 27 June 2025 and 25th July 2025 were confirmed as an accurate record.</p>
TVCA 36/25	<p>TEES VALLEY MAYOR'S UPDATE</p> <p>The Mayor advised Cabinet members that he had nothing to update them on which was not covered elsewhere on the agenda.</p> <p>Members were however given an opportunity ask questions.</p> <p>No questions were asked.</p>
TVCA 37/25	<p>GOVERNANCE & APPOINTMENTS</p>

	<p>Cabinet received a report which sought approval for a number of appointments.</p> <p>Cabinet members were invited to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>APPROVE</u> the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; ii. <u>APPROVE</u> the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee; iii. <u>NOTE</u> the appointment of a member and substitute member to the Hartlepool Development Corporation Audit and Governance Committee; iv. <u>NOTE</u> the appointment of a member and substitute member to the Middlesbrough Development Corporation Audit and Governance Committee; v. <u>NOTE</u> the appointment of a member and substitute member to the South Tees Development Corporation Audit and Governance Committee; vi. <u>APPROVE</u> the appointment of the Substitute Member on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; vii. <u>NOTE</u> the appointment of the Chair of South Tees Development Corporation Audit & Governance Committee. <p>The interim Monitoring Officer provided Cabinet members with an overview of the report.</p> <p>Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>There were no comments or questions.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>APPROVE</u> the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; ii. <u>APPROVE</u> the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee; iii. <u>NOTE</u> the appointment of a member and substitute member to the Hartlepool Development Corporation Audit and Governance Committee;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. NOTE the appointment of a member and substitute member to the Middlesbrough Development Corporation Audit and Governance Committee; v. NOTE the appointment of a member and substitute member to the South Tees Development Corporation Audit and Governance Committee; vi. APPROVE the appointment of the Substitute Member on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; vii. NOTE the appointment of the Chair of South Tees Development Corporation Audit & Governance Committee.
<p>TVCA 38/25</p>	<p>ORGANISATIONAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS</p> <p>Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the progress with the Organisational Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Cabinet were invited to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NOTE: the confirmation of Dame Amanada Milling, former government minister, as a member of the Independent Advisory Board. ii. NOTE: progress on the Organisational Improvement Action Plan. <p>The Director of Operations provided Cabinet members with an overview of the report</p> <p>Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. No comments or questions were received.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NOTE: the confirmation of Dame Amanada Milling, former government minister, as a member of the Independent Advisory Board; ii. NOTE: progress on the Organisational Improvement Action Plan
<p>TVCA 39/25</p>	<p>INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE</p> <p>Cabinet received the first progress update from the Chair of the Independent Advisory Board.</p> <p>The Chair of the Board attended Cabinet to present the report.</p>

	<p>He reminded Cabinet members that the role of the Independent Advisory Board is to provide assurance and give help and assistance to the organisation to improve.</p> <p>He advised Cabinet that TVCA’s response to the Best Value Notice (BVN) has been appropriate and that good progress is being made. A marked change has been noted since the BVN was issued. He commended the Chief Executive in accelerating the progress and welcomed the appointments of both the Interim Group Director of Finance & Resources and the Interim Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>At the recent Independent Advisory Board meeting, members were provided a very informative presentation from the Interim Monitoring Officer and were also provided an assessment from the Interim Group Director of Finance & Resources.</p> <p>While there is still a lot of work to be done, he advised Cabinet that the Board have no concerns, and that he would be honest if the Board did not believe TVCA was on track.</p> <p>Cabinet were advised that a further round of facilitated workshops will take place with them in the next few months.</p> <p>Cabinet members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>Councillor Harrison noted that she was glad to hear the board are pleased with progress to date. She noted that the open and frank discussions held with the LGA had been useful and looked forward to the further sessions.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke requested that the Governance Deep Dive presentation provided at the last IAB meeting be circulated to Cabinet members. He was advised that the Interim Monitoring Officer is meeting all Leaders and is using the presentation as a basis for the discussions. Once all meetings have taken place, the presentation will be circulated.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet note the progress update from the Chair of the Independent Advisory Board.</p>
<p>TVCA 40/25</p>	<p>QUARTER 1 BUDGET REPORT AND MEDIUM-TERM FORWARD PLAN UPDATE</p> <p>Cabinet received a report which provided details of the 2025/26 revenue and capital forecast outturn position for Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and highlighted significant variances between the approved budget</p>

for the year and the forecast outturn, based on the position as at the end of June 2025.

The report also included a revised capital programme 2025/26 to 2028/29 to take account of the Investment Plan refresh approved by Cabinet in March 2025. The revised programme also includes new projects where capital grant funding has been secured. A revised capital budget for 2025/26 was also proposed for approval.

Cabinet were also invited to approve a revised revenue budget which incorporates borrowing costs impacts from the revised capital programme as well as additional revenue grant funding secured.

Cabinet were invited to:-

- i. Note the new quarterly report format;
- ii. Note the Q1 revenue forecast of net deficit of £5.772m for year ending 31 March 2026 to be funded from reserves and in line with approved budgets;
- iii. Approve the proposed changes to the 2025/26 revenue budget;
- iv. Note the revenue implications of the additional £6.020m of borrowing for capital investment arising from the Investment Plan refresh approved in March 2025;
- v. Note the revenue reserve position and the planned use of reserves over the period 2025/26 to 2028/29;
- vi. Note the Q1 forecast gross capital expenditure of £237.223m for financial year ending 31 March 2026 in line with the proposed revised capital Budget.
- vii. Approve the proposed changes to capital budget
- viii. Note the Capital Reserves position and the planned use of reserves.

The Interim Director of Finance & Resources provided Cabinet members with an overview of the report. She advised that the new format is still a work in progress, but it is anticipated the new format will be complete by the Quarter 2 report.

Cabinet members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions.

Councillor Harrison noted that the report format is much clearer and more transparent. She acknowledged the amount of work that has been undertaken and expressed her appreciation.

Mayor Cooke also acknowledged that the format of the report has improved.

	<p>Mayor Cooke expressed concern over the onward lending and he was advised that any of the loans which are not being serviced is by formal agreement.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke requested confirmation that a Cabinet briefing would take place before Quarter 2. The Chief Executive confirmed that a Cabinet workshop had been scheduled in November. This will cover the budget along with strategic priorities.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Interim Director of Finance & Resources and the finance team as a whole for the significant amount of work that has been undertaken.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke noted that he had submitted questions in advance of the Cabinet meeting but had not received a response. The interim Monitoring Officer agreed to provide a full response to the questions in writing.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke and Councillor Harrison abstained from approving the recommendations within the report until such time that the outstanding queries were resolved.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the new quarterly report format; ii. Note the Q1 revenue forecast of net deficit of £5.772m for year ending 31 March 2026 to be funded from reserves and in line with approved budgets; iii. Approve the proposed changes to the 2025/26 revenue budget; iv. Note the revenue implications of the additional £6.020m of borrowing for capital investment arising from the Investment Plan refresh approved in March 2025; v. Note the revenue reserve position and the planned use of reserves over the period 2025/26 to 2028/29; vi. Note the Q1 forecast gross capital expenditure of £237.223m for financial year ending 31 March 2026 in line with the proposed revised capital Budget. vii. Approve the proposed changes to capital budget viii. Note the Capital Reserves position and the planned use of reserves.
<p>TVCA 41/25</p>	<p>TRANSPORT PROGRAMME UPDATE</p>

	<p>Cabinet members received a report which invited them to consider the transport programme including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the transport capital investment programme comprising Transforming Cities Fund, City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement 2022-2027 (CRSTS1), the Transport for City Regions (TCR) 2027-2032 (formerly CRSTS2), together with other funding which TVCA has been able to secure to support the delivery of the Strategic Transport Plan (2020-2030). • Details of the development funding committed since the last report to Cabinet to commence TCR project development. • Details of the Consolidated Active Travel Fund committed since the last report to Cabinet. • Details of the CRSTS1 revenue funding committed since the last report to Cabinet. <p>Cabinet members were recommended to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. NOTE the update on the development of the transport capital investment; ii. NOTE the additional delegated decisions taken by the Interim Director of Infrastructure to finalise Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding allocations for 2025/26 (updating the provisional allocations made previously); iii. NOTE the delegated decisions taken by the Interim Director of Infrastructure to approve CRSTS1 revenue expenditure for the development of the transport capital investment programme; iv. NOTE that a number of schemes are expected to be completing the project development phase in the next quarter (October – December) and the Business Cases will be appraised in accordance with TVCA's Assurance Framework, ahead of moving into the delivery phase The specific schemes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Traffic Management and Control • Connected Autonomous Vehicle Trial v. DELEGATE authority to the Interim Director of Infrastructure to take all decisions required to manage the Pavement Channels Grant allocation for 2025/26, in consultation with Tees Valley Management Group / Transport Advisory Group as set out in paragraphs 88 and 89. It is proposed that the funding will be used to support the development and delivery of the Electric Vehicles Infrastructure theme of the transport investment programme, and in accordance with the grant conditions and agreement of Department for Transport.
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	<p>vi. DELEGATE authority to the Director of Infrastructure to take all decisions required to progress delivery of business cases for each project within the approved CRSTS / TCR programme in consultation with TAG / TVMG. In accordance with the Tees Valley Assurance Framework, the approval of business cases is delegated to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Chief Executive, in consultation with the Tees Valley Management Group, and the Tees Valley Combined Authority Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>The Interim Director of Infrastructure further advised members that additional support has been identified to assist with the delivery of the Transforming Cities Regional Delivery Plan which is due to be submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) by the end of October.</p> <p>Cabinet members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke enquired what the process is for reallocating funds if projects are either on hold or not going ahead.</p> <p>He was advised that all projects are allocated to a specific funding stream and the process varies depending on the DfT requirement.</p> <p>He was advised that he will be provided with written responses to the questions submitted in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair requested officers to provide Cabinet with a full review of the transport programme for consideration.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke agreed and enquired whether this would be an opportunity to open the programme up to new submissions. It was agreed that this could be discussed when the review is presented back to Cabinet.</p> <p>Councillor Harrison enquired about the bus shelter survey and whether it included all the Tees Valley and also whether all bus shelters have been looked at.</p> <p>She was advised that the bus shelter survey covered all shelters and that the transport team are now looking at the costing and phasing of the required enhancements. Regular engagement with Local Authority officers has been taking place and also feedback from members of the public has been acted on.</p> <p>It was agreed that an update on the process will be issued to Cabinet members post-meeting.</p>
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Councillor Harrison enquired why the Care Leavers bus pass offer is taking so long to develop. She expressed concern that the delay has meant a cohort of care leavers have all been without a pass. Denise McGuckin also highlighted the impact of the delay on care leavers. There were offers of assistance to speed up the process if needed.

It was agreed that a progress update will be provided to Cabinet members.

Councillor Harker noted that there are two delegations listed in the recommendations and requested an explanation.

The Interim Monitoring Officer explained that the points being highlighted are the key components of a Single Assurance Framework, which is deemed to be best practice amongst Combined Authorities and which we are aiming to implement at pace.

This will include a set of tolerances, which will require a Cabinet decision and proposals will be brought back to Cabinet for consideration. This principle has already been discussed with Local Authority Monitoring Officers.

It was emphasised that the delegations listed in the report are fully in line with the current Assurance Framework.

It was proposed that the Interim Monitoring Officer and Interim Director of Infrastructure work together on an initial set of tolerances which could be made available for the December Cabinet meeting.

The Chair highlighted that until such time, none of the larger projects are in the delivery stage.

Mayor Cooke requested that a list of Actions be included, separate to the Recommendations in future minutes.

The Chair summarised by noting that Cabinet are agreeing the delegations subject to the changes discussed.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

NOTES the update on the development of the transport capital investment programme;

NOTES the additional delegated decisions taken by the Interim Director of Infrastructure to finalise Bus Service Improvement Plan

	<p>(BSIP) funding allocations for 2025/26 (updating the provisional allocations made previously) as set out in paragraphs 80-82 and Appendix 2.</p> <p>NOTES the delegated decisions taken by the Interim Director of Infrastructure to approve CRSTS1 revenue expenditure for the development of the transport capital investment programme as set out in paragraphs 84 and 85 and detailed in Appendix 3.</p> <p>NOTES that a number of schemes are expected to be completing the project development phase in the next quarter (October – December) and the Business Cases will be appraised in accordance with TVCA's Assurance Framework, ahead of moving into the delivery phase. The specific schemes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Traffic Management and Control • Connected Autonomous Vehicle Trial <p>DELEGATES authority to the Interim Director of Infrastructure to take all decisions required to manage the Pavement Channels Grant allocation for 2025/26, in consultation with Tees Valley Management Group / Transport Advisory Group as set out in paragraphs 88 and 89. It is proposed that the funding will be used to support the development and delivery of the Electric Vehicles Infrastructure theme of the transport investment programme, and in accordance with the grant conditions and agreement of Department for Transport.</p> <p>DELEGATES authority to the Director of Infrastructure to take all decisions required to progress delivery of business cases for each project within the approved CRSTS / TCR programme in consultation with TAG / TVMG. In accordance with the Tees Valley Assurance Framework, the approval of business cases is delegated to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Chief Executive, in consultation with the Tees Valley Management Group, and the Tees Valley Combined Authority Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer.</p>
<p>TVCA 42/25</p>	<p>LOCAL GROWTH PLAN AND INVESTMENT PIPELINE UPDATE</p> <p>Cabinet members were presented a report providing a further update on the Local Growth Plan, specifically on recent policy updates, wider partner and stakeholder engagement and the development of the Tees Valley Investment Pipeline.</p> <p>Cabinet were recommended to note the update report.</p>

	<p>The Interim Director of Infrastructure highlighted the key areas of the report to note. She advised Cabinet members that consultants are in place and engagement will start next week.</p> <p>Cabinet members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. No comments or questions received</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet note the update</p>
<p>TVCA 43/25</p>	<p>GET TEES VALLEY WORKING PLAN</p> <p>Cabinet were provided a report which provided an update on the Get Tees Valley Working Plan, including the Get Tees Valley Working Plan – First Edition, which was also provided for Cabinet approval.</p> <p>Cabinet was recommended to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NOTE the update on the Get Tees Valley Working Plan. ii. In relation to the Get Tees Valley Working Plan – First Edition Cabinet has the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. APPROVE the Get Tees Valley Working Plan – First Edition and agree that the plan can be published, in accordance with paragraph 32 of the Guidance for Developing local Get Britain Working plans (England). b. NOT APPROVE the Get Tees Valley Working Plan – First Edition and not agree that the plan can be published. <p>RECOMMENDED OPTION – Option ii(a). As set out in paragraph 32 of the Guidance for Developing local Get Britain Working plans (England), ‘as a minimum all areas are expected to have initial plans covering inactivity completed and published by September 2025’. The aim of Local Get Britain Working plans is to address the challenges related to labour force participation (employment, unemployment and economic inactivity) and progression in work. Given the high levels of economic inactivity in Tees Valley, the Get Tees Valley Working Plan – First Edition sets out the priorities focusing on addressing economic inactivity at a local level. The scope of the plan will be expanded over time to cover the full scope of the government’s Get Britain Working ambition.</p> <p>Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p>

	<p>No comments or questions were received.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NOTE the update on the Get Tees Valley Working Plan; ii. APPROVE the Get Tees Valley Working Plan – First Edition and agree that the plan can be published, in accordance with paragraph 32 of the Guidance for Developing local Get Britain Working plans (England).
<p>TVCA 44/25</p>	<p>CONNECT TO WORK</p> <p>Cabinet was provided a report which updated on the approach for the delivery of the Tees Valley Connect to Work programme for the period 2025/2026 to 2029/2030. Information was previously presented to Cabinet via a paper for the meeting on 27 June 2025. Since then, continued work has been undertaken, including through close engagement with and feedback from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), to develop and finalise the delivery plan.</p> <p>Cabinet was advised that the final submission of the plan was made on 14 August; TVCA have been notified by DWP that the plan was approved subject to fulfilling a small number of conditions. A formal response to these conditions was submitted on 15 September with panel scheduled to review the response 18 September.</p> <p>Cabinet is recommended to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NOTE the update on the mixed-model option selected and approved at June Cabinet. ii. NOTE the amendment to the budget and participant volumes following discussions with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). iii. APPROVE the Delivery Plan submitted to the DWP. iv. DELEGATE authority to the TVCA Chief Executive, in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to conclude any final changes to the delivery plan required by DWP, take the necessary actions, including, but not limited to, approval of the final delivery partners in line with the DWP approved delivery plan and entering relevant contracts and/or other legal agreements to implement the above.

	<p>The Interim Director of Business Solutions provided Cabinet with an overview of the report and Cabinet members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke enquired whether we could choose not to bring in partners and if so, can that allocation be used in the main body of the programme.</p> <p>He was advised that in the Delivery Plan, 100% grant was allocated to the Local Authorities as it was felt they are in the best position to deliver the programme. There will be a 60/40 split between Local Authorities and the additional delivery partners. This split was based on conversations with all Local Authorities.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NOTE the update on the mixed-model option selected and approved at June Cabinet. ii. NOTE the amendment to the budget and participant volumes following discussions with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). iii. APPROVE the Delivery Plan submitted to the DWP; iv. DELEGATE authority to the TVCA Chief Executive, in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to conclude any final changes to the delivery plan required by DWP, take the necessary actions, including, but not limited to, approval of the final delivery partners in line with the DWP approved delivery plan and entering relevant contracts and/or other legal agreements to implement the above.
<p>TVCA 4a5/25</p>	<p>ADULT SKILLS UPDATE</p> <p>Cabinet was provided a progress update on the development of the approach to the delivery of adult skills provision from the 2026/27 academic year.</p> <p>They were advised that the final recommendations will be presented to Cabinet for approval in December 2025.</p> <p>Cabinet members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke noted that in the MTFP there was a gap in Adult Skills for the ongoing year and enquired whether this gap still exists.</p>

	<p>He was advised that last year, accrued under spend was utilised to top up the budget as we found out late in the process that our allocation had been reduced. We will not be able to do that this year so whatever we do moving forward will be based on the allocation.</p> <p>He was further advised that the devolved budget was expected to be received by the end of January 2026 but currently there is no indication what that will look like, but we expect it to be in the region of £30m. It is expected to be a fully devolved budget but clarification from DfE is still needed.</p> <p>A detailed paper will be brought to Cabinet in December which will advise members of the outcomes of the workshops and the approach to Adult Skills moving forward.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the update and that a further report on the proposed approach will be reported to Cabinet in December 2025</p>
<p>TVCA 46/25</p>	<p>OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS SUB-COMMITTEE</p> <p>Cabinet was provided a report which sought Cabinet approval to adopt the recommendation of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee following the conclusion of the Education, Employment and Skills Sub-Committee’s task and finish exercise.</p> <p>It was recommended that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NOTE the report and recommendation detailed within the report alongside the response from officers ; <p>and AGREE to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. respond to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee indicating whether it agrees to adopt the recommendations; and iii. publish a response to the Committee’s recommendations. <p>The Interim Monitoring Officer thanked the Overview & Scrutiny Chair for attending Cabinet. He advised that it is considered best practice when Overview & Scrutiny items are presented to Cabinet, that the Chair of the Committee is in attendance. TVCA are working with the Chair and Committee on an Improvement Plan to go alongside the identified Improvement Plan for the organisation.</p>

Cabinet were informed that the recommendation from the sub committee is that TVCA should develop and create a Youth Forum to act as a consultation vehicle for youth-based policy and activity of the Authority.

Councillor Harrison commented that she was pleased to see the Chair of the Committee in attendance and thanked him, the committee and the sub-committee for the report. She indicated her support for the recommendations within the report.

The Chair of the Committee remarked that the Committee are keen to ensure that a Youth Forum would cover all demographics throughout the whole Tees Valley.

Mayor Cooke noted that the report indicates there are no financial implications for the delivery of a Youth Forum which raised concerns with him.

The Interim Director of Business Solutions noted that if the proposal to establish a Youth Forum was agreed, the Business Solutions Directorate would look at how to develop the project and how this will work. She agreed that this would require a resource.

The Interim Monitoring Officer noted that there are examples of Youth Forms in other Combined Authority areas which would be worth looking at as some have been very successful and some have not, so good learning can be taken from them. There is also good learning to take from those set up by Police & Crime Commissioners which tend to operate more successfully than the ones established by a Combined Authority.

Mike Greene advised that a number of Tees Valley Local Authorities have nationally recognised examples of youth participation and children's involvement so consulting with the Director's of Children's Services would be beneficial.

The Chair noted that he has no issue with the principles of establishing a Youth Forum however the recommendation seems premature given the review that we are undertaking on the governance frameworks and structures and we do not know how this fits in with our constitution which it was noted will be undergoing a full review and re-write.

Also, as youth forums already exist at Local Authority level, are we replicating what is already in existence so is there value at having one at Tees Valley level?

He also noted that the establishment of a permanent Education Employment & Skills Overview & Scrutiny sub committee could be replicating the work of the already established Education Employment & Skills Group, chaired by Councillor Evans.

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee commented that there are already 2 permanent sub-committees in place covering Finance & Resources and Transport. The recommendation is to establish a third sub-committee in line with what the other established sub-committees already undertake.

The Interim Monitoring Officer commented that the intention is that Overview & Scrutiny will move to a single committee model. Within the Scrutiny Protocol it is a recommendation to have a sub-pool of scrutiny members which sit under the Scrutiny Committee and support with the functions of the single committee model.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee Improvement Plan will take this into account.

Councillor Harrison noted that while Local Authorities have their own Youth Forums, she believes a Tees Valley wide Youth Forum is a good idea.

She also noted that the sub committees are a good way of doing the deep dives on some of the issues and they have worked well in the past.

Mike Greene noted that youth forums are a good opportunity of getting young people's voices in the big ticket areas in the region. He noted that the Local Authorities have vibrant networks in existence already so rather than starting from scratch, offered to speak to Directors of Children's Service in all the Local Authorities.

Mayor Cooke also noted that Local Authorities have their own Youth Forums however they often discuss issues which affect the region. He believes there should be a joined-up strategy across the full Tees Valley.

Councillor Harrison requested that Cabinet agree to a Youth Forum in principle but revisit the idea when the review is completed.

The Interim Monitoring Officer noted that the O&S Improvement Plan will pick up the development of an EES sub-committee and this will be brought back to a future Cabinet meeting for endorsement.

	<p>The Scrutiny Chair noted that the Committee has agreed its work programme for the forth coming year so was happy to defer a further discussion on the EES subcommittee until a later date.</p> <p>The Chair expressed his intention to vote against the recommendations put forward in the report to establish a youth forum whilst further work was undertaken.</p> <p>Following a further discussion, it was agreed that Mike Greene would set out existing local authority youth forum arrangements across the Tees Valley and liaise with Sarah Walker on potential opportunities for TVCA engagement.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke proposed that the decision is deferred. This was seconded by Councillor Evans.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. DEFER the recommendation to establish an Overview & Scrutiny Committee Education Employment & Skills sub-committee this municipal year; ii. DEFER the recommendation to establish a Youth Forum until a full proposal has been brought back to Cabinet.
<p>TVCA 47/25</p>	<p>OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>Cabinet received a report requesting Cabinet’s endorsement of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees annual report for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for all their work.</p> <p>Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. No comments or questions received.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet endorse the Overview & Scrutiny Report for the municipal year 2024/25</p>
<p>TVCA 48/25</p>	<p>NORTH EAST & YORKSHIRE NET ZERO HUB</p>

	<p>Cabinet were provided a report which highlighted evolution in a number of areas of management and delivery and makes a number of recommendations to strengthen and augment the Hub's governance by TVCA.</p> <p>Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>AUTHORISE</u> the Group Interim Monitoring Officer to update TVCA's Constitution to accurately reflect the current scale and complexity of Hub delivery. ii. <u>APPROVE</u> the Hub-specific delegations, which delegate authority to the Chief Executive or their nominated representative in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer for decisions relating to the Hub's governance and financial responsibilities and to the Director of Business Solutions for matters of internal management. Once approved, the Hub-specific delegations will be added to the Scheme of Delegation within the TVCA Constitution. iii. <u>NOTE</u> the update relating to the Hub's Regional Governance Board in relation to membership and process for selecting an independent Chair. iv. <u>NOTE</u> that an Options Appraisal relating to the future Hub delivery will be brought to the Cabinet meeting in December. <p>The Interim Director of Business Solutions provided Cabinet with an overview of the report.</p> <p>Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. No comments or questions received.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>AUTHORISE</u> the Group Interim Monitoring Officer to update TVCA's Constitution to accurately reflect the current scale and complexity of Hub delivery. ii. <u>APPROVE</u> the Hub-specific delegations, which delegate authority to the Chief Executive or their nominated representative in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer for decisions relating to the Hub's governance and financial responsibilities and to the Director of Business Solutions for matters of internal management. Once approved, the Hub-specific delegations will be added to the Scheme of Delegation within the TVCA Constitution.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. NOTE the update relating to the Hub’s Regional Governance Board in relation to membership and process for selecting an independent Chair. iv. NOTE that an Options Appraisal relating to the future Hub delivery will be brought to the Cabinet meeting in December.
<p>TVCA 49/25</p>	<p>LOCAL REMEDIATION ACCELERATION PLAN</p> <p>Cabinet received a report which provides an overview of the Tees Valley Local Remediation Acceleration Plan including how it has been developed.</p> <p>Cabinet were recommended to APPROVE the Local Remediation Acceleration Plan for publication on the TVCA Website and NOTE the convening role TVCA takes in its delivery.</p> <p>Cabinet members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>Councillor Harrison advised Cabinet members that meetings have been taking place on a regular basis and that everything that needs to be done is being done. She also commented that there are 2 very good fire services who are involved in this project.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. APPROVE the Local Remediation Acceleration Plan for publication on the TVCA Website; and ii. NOTE the convening role TVCA takes in its delivery.
<p>TVCA 50/25</p>	<p>DELEGATED OR URGENT DECISIONS</p> <p>Cabinet were provided a report which detailed all the Delegated Decisions made since Cabinet last met on 25th July 2025.</p> <p>The Interim Monitoring Officer advised Cabinet that the report provides 6 Delegated Decisions to note which had been signed since the last Cabinet meeting. No Urgent Decisions have been taken in that’s time.</p> <p>Cabinet members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>It was noted that some forms are signed by the Portfolio holder while others are not. It was explained that delegated decisions are taken in line with what has previously been agreed by Cabinet.</p>

	<p>The Interim Monitoring Officers advised Cabinet that as part of the improvement work, the approvals process will be looked at as will financial thresholds and publication of decision notices. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be involved in any of the changes surrounding Key Decisions and financial thresholds as this will influence the Call-in process.</p> <p>Mayor Cooke commented that the Business Case for the airport should have been brought to Cabinet for approval. The Chair advised that a detailed report on this project was presented to Cabinet, which included a value for money assessment. The Interim Monitoring Officer advised that the business case for this project was appraised in accordance with the existing TVCA Assurance Framework.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the Delegated Decisions made since Cabinet on 25th July 2025</p>
	<p>DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am Friday, 12th December 2025 <p>The Chair thanked all in attendance.</p>