



TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

Friday, 26 June 2026 at 10.15am

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>	
Members	
Mayor Ben Houchen (Chair)	Tees Valley Mayor
Councillor Stephen Harker	Leader, Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Graham Harrison	Leader, Hartlepool Borough Council
Mayor Chris Cooke	Mayor of Middlesbrough, Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Alec Brown	Leader, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Councillor Lisa Evans	Leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Officers	
Tom Bryant	Chief Executive, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Sarah Brackenborough	Director of Operations, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Jo Moore	Interim Director of Finance & Resources, Tees Valley Combined Authority (joined on Teams)
Craig Peacock	Director of Inward Investment & Marketing, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Jonathan Spruce	Director of Infrastructure, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Sarah Walker	Director of Business Solutions, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Jeanette McGarry	Interim Monitoring Officer, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Elizabeth Davison	Executive Director, Resources & Governance, Darlington Borough Council
Matt Wilton	Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council

Erik Scollay	Chief Executive, Middlesbrough Council
Brian Archer	Chief Executive, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Mike Greene	Chief Executive, Stockton Borough Council
Jacqui Banks	Business Solutions Manager – Skills TVCA
Sally Henry	Governance Officer, TVCA

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](#).

	<u>CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS</u> The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.
TVCA 05/26	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were submitted by Matthew Ord and Rose Rouse
TVCA 06/26	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST No declarations of interest were received
TVCA 07/26	MINUTES RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 th April 2026 were confirmed as an accurate record.
TVCA 08/26	TEES VALLEY MAYOR'S UPDATE The Mayor advised Cabinet members that he had nothing further to update them on which was not covered elsewhere on the agenda. Members were however given an opportunity to comment or ask questions. No questions were asked.
TVCA 09/26	GOVERNANCE & APPOINTMENTS

	Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive which provided an update on the recruitment process for the Chief Legal & Monitoring Officer and the Director of Finance & Resources. Members' approval was sought for the appointment of Andrew Perriman as Monitoring Officer. They were advised that interviews had taken place the previous week. Councillor Evans and Matt Wilton were thanked for being involved in the interview process. Cabinet were further advised that it is proposed to regrade the position to Director in line with other Combined Authorities and to reflect the level of responsibility aligned to the new Devolution and Community Empowerment Act. Councillor Brown noted that the new Monitoring Officer looks to be skilled and experienced. An update was also provided on the progress made on the recruitment of Independent Persons. Interviews have taken place and successful candidates have been appointed. Those candidates not appointed have expressed interest in joining the Development Corporation Audit & Governance Committees. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. Councillor Brown enquired on progress on the recruitment of a new Director of Finance & Resources. He was advised that work is ongoing to identify a suitable candidate. In the meantime Cabinet previously agreed to extend Jo Moore's contract until the end of September and she has committed to ensure there is a smooth transition once the successful person is appointed. RESOLVED that Cabinet :- • <u>NOTED</u> the update on the recruitment process for the Chief Legal & Monitoring Officer and the Finance & Resources Director; • <u>APPROVED</u> the permanent appointment of the Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer), (tabled at the meeting); • <u>NOTED</u> the progress of the recruitment of Independent Persons.
TVCA 10/26	ORGANISATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive which provided an update on progress in relation to the Organisation Improvement Plan and other matters relating to the Best Value Notice issued on 3 April 2025, and

	the External Audit Statutory Recommendations Letter, issued on 15th April 2025. Mayor Cooke advised members that changes have been made to how the data is presented. He thanked the Director of Operations and the Programme Manager (Improvement) for their work in developing the report. He advised that there is a desire to move towards a continuous improvement plan once this plan is complete. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. There were no questions or comments. The Chief Executive advised members that he had a meeting recently with The Chair of the Independent Advisory Board, The Tees Valley Mayor and the Mayor of Middlesbrough. The role and future membership of the Board was discussed and an update will be brought to a future Cabinet meeting as this progresses. The Chair thanked Mayor Cooke for working with officers who have all appreciated his support and advice. He also thanked all Cabinet members for their support and for the cross-party approach. RESOLVED that Cabinet :- • <u>NOTED</u> progress in relation to the Organisational Improvement Plan; • <u>APPROVED</u> the continuation of the Independent Advisory Board, in line with the detail set out in the report; • <u>NOTED</u> the intention to develop a continuous improvement strategy.
TVCA 11/26	DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/26 Cabinet received a report from the Interim Monitoring Officer which advised that the informal meeting of the TVCA Audit & Governance Committee considered the Annual Governance Statement on the 21 May 2026. The Committee members commented positively on the level of progress and evidence provided. Members requested that the weaknesses section of the report be enhanced. It was noted that this section of the report would be updated once feedback has been provided by the External Auditor (EY) and the Internal Auditor (TIAA). Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. There were no questions or comments. RESOLVED that Cabinet :-

	• <u>NOTED</u> the comments on the Draft Annual Governance Statement made at the informal meeting of the TVCA Audit and Governance Committee on 21 May 2026; • <u>APPROVED</u> the Draft Annual Governance Statement for publication, subject to any future comments from the Internal Auditor (TIAA) and the External Auditor (EY).
TVCA 12/26	SOUTH TEES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN Cabinet received a report from the Interim Director of Finance & Resources presenting the South Tees Development Corporation (STDC) Capital and Revenue budgets for 2026/27, the updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the Capital Programme for 2026/27 – 2030/31 as required by the STDC Constitution. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. There were no questions or comments. RESOLVED that Cabinet :- • <u>NOTED</u> the South Tees Development Corporation (STDC) Capital and Revenue budgets for 2026/27, the updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the Capital Programme for 2026/27 – 2030/31.
TVCA 13/26	SOUTH TEES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive of the STDC which presented an annual update on the activities of South Tees Development Corporation and progress across the Teesworks site since the previous Cabinet update in March 2025. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. There were no questions or comments. RESOLVED that Cabinet:- • <u>NOTED</u> the contents of the report.
TVCA 14/26	WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

	Cabinet received a report from the Interim Monitoring Officer which presented the amended TVCA Whistleblowing Policy, which incorporated the Internal Auditor's recommendations and comments made at the informal meeting of TVCA's Audit & Governance Committee on 21 May 2026. The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Audit & Governance Committee. The Interim Monitoring Officer explained that the revised Whistleblowing Policy was at Appendix 1 and she thanked Comms and HR colleagues for implementing the Delivery Plan at appendix 2, in response to the Internal Auditor's comments Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. There were no questions or comments. RESOLVED that Cabinet :- • Noted the comments made by the Informal Audit and Governance Committee; and • Approved the revised Whistleblowing Policy.
TVCA 15/26	DRAFT REVENUE & CAPITAL OUTTURN 2025/26 Cabinet received a report from the Interim Director of Finance & Resources presenting the draft revenue and capital outturn position for Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) for the year ending 31 March 2026, highlighting any key variances to the approved budget for the year, based on the provisional outturn position as at the end of Quarter 4 (31 March 2026). Cabinet members were advised that the report was provisional pending the finalisation of the Annual Statement of Accounts 25/26 and prior year accounts for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The Interim Director of Finance & Resources provided Cabinet members with an overview of the report and Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. Councillor Harrison thanked officers for the report and commented that, noting the underspend on projects, the Investment Committee can play an important role here, alongside the new Single Assurance Framework in challenging and scrutinising the delivery of the projects. RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

	• <u>NOTED</u> the draft revenue outturn position of a net deficit of £5.798m for the year ending 31 March 2026, which is an adverse variance of £0.026m against the budgeted deficit of £5.772m, and an adverse variance of £5.204m from the reported deficit of £0.594m at Quarter 3. • <u>APPROVE</u> the revenue budget carry forward requests of £3.811m set out in Table 6 of the report, for Creative Place Programme, Sector Networks and Hydrogen Refuelling Station to deliver committed activity. • <u>NOTED</u> the proposed contributions to reserves of £27.603m and contributions from reserves of £10.959m, which is a net movement to revenue reserves of £16.644m. • <u>NOTED</u> the total usable revenue reserves of £51.545m as of 31 March 2026 set out in Table 17. • <u>NOTED</u> the matters to be resolved to finalise the outturn • <u>NOTED</u> the draft outturn for the Capital Programme of £155.610m for the financial year to 31 March 2026, which is a reduction of £81.613m against budgeted capital expenditure of £227.223m and an increase of £48.765m from the reported Q3 position. • <u>NOTED</u> the capital reserves position of £194.060m as 31 March 2026. • <u>APPROVED</u> the additional contribution to MRP of £3.042 for Goosepool 2019 Ltd loans backdated to the loan advance date.
TVCA 16/26	TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2025/26 Cabinet received a report from the Interim Group Director of Finance & Resources which informed Cabinet of the TVCA performance against the treasury management and prudential indicators set in the Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26, approved by the Authority on 28 March 2025. The Interim Director of Finance & Resources provided Cabinet members with an overview of the report, highlighting that we have been fully compliant with Treasury Management codes. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. There were no questions or comments. RESOLVED that Cabinet:- • <u>NOTED</u> the Treasury Outturn Report for 2025/26. • <u>NOTED</u> that all treasury and prudential indicators approved for 2025/26 have been complied with.

TVCA 17/26	APPROVAL OF LOCAL GROWTH PLAN AND INVESTMENT PIPELINE Cabinet received a report from the Director of Business Solutions which presented the Tees Valley Local Growth Plan for publication and adoption along with associated Investment Pipeline Priority Packages. The Director of Business Solutions expressed her thanks to the Investment Development Team and the Communications and Marketing team. The Local Growth Plan document has been reframed and it is now an extremely positive story about the Tees Valley and sells the opportunities available. The input from Local Authority officers has been important and appreciated. Sarah noted that, since the document was circulated 3 small changes have been made:- • The commitments from the front have now been moved into the Executive Summary; • Some additional imagery has been included around the strategic projects; • Some amends have been made to the digital and creative section. The intention is to have a soft launch if this is approved today and a larger scale launch event in the future involving a “call to action” with stakeholders. The Chair acknowledged that this has been a huge piece of work and expressed specific thanks to all the staff involved both from the Local Authorities and the Combined Authority. He specifically thanked Elaine Fryett and Joseph Demetriou who had worked on it, along with the rest of the teams involved. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. Mayor Cooke also thanked the teams involved. He noted that the Inward Investment Strategy and the Local Growth Plan are aligned. It feels like all the work is coming together and acknowledges it is a really good piece of work. The Chair concluded by saying that this has been a great example of work undertaken collaboratively and collectively. It has been a good demonstration how we work closely together with Local authorities. RESOLVED that Cabinet :-
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	• <u>APPROVED</u> the Tees Valley Investment Pipeline Priority Packages as set out on pages 138-145 of the Local Growth Plan; • <u>APPROVED</u> the Tees Valley Local Growth Plan and agree that it can be published and adopted, in accordance with section 8 of the Guidance for Mayoral Strategic Authorities on developing Local Growth Plans. • <u>DELEGATED</u> authority to TVCA's Director of Business Solutions to update and amend the Local Growth Plan if required where these changes would not alter the strategic intent or priorities of the document.
TVCA 18/26	SKILLS PROGRAMME UPDATE <i>Appendix 1 is a "restricted item" not for publication until Secretary of State approval has been received.</i> Cabinet received a report from the Director of Business Solutions seeking Cabinet approval of the Local Skills Improvement Plan 2 (2026-2029) for the Tees Valley along with the supporting letter of endorsement. The report also provided an update on the Adult Skills procurement and new funding to support Construction Industry Placements. The Director of Business Solutions advised Cabinet that the NorthEast Chamber of Commerce were the lead body working with TVCA on the production of the Local Skills Plan. Feedback from businesses has been that this is a tangible plan and the actions within it can be taken forward. She advised that the Education & Skills Advisory Group will oversee the implementation of the plan, led by the portfolio holder, Councillor Evans. She further advised that an additional £1.2m of funding from the Department for Education has been received to deliver the construction skills package. Additional smaller funding pots continue to be made available. Councillor Evans expressed her thanks to the team at TVCA and also to the Chamber of Commerce and to the Education and Skills Advisory Group. She noted that excellent feedback had been received from both about the work we are doing so we will continue in the same direction. Councillor Harrison welcomed the plan. It supports the ambitions of the Local Growth Plan and it is important that not only industry and business have

	access to the right skills to support economic growth in the Tees Valley but also that residents have every opportunity to benefit from that growth too. RESOLVED that Cabinet :- • Approved the Local Skills Improvement Plan 2 (2026-2029) for the Tees Valley as set out in Appendix 1 and the letter of endorsement as set out in Appendix 2. • Noted that the Education Employment and Skills Advisory Group will oversee the implementation of the Local Skills Improvement Plan 2 and keep it under review throughout the three-year cycle. • Noted that the Adult Skills Fund procurement launched in January 2026 has been withdrawn for review, with a revised opportunity expected in the coming weeks. • Noted the £1.2m funding from the Department for Education as part of the national Construction Skills package to support Industry Placements. • Noted the additional funding of £0.366m to be allocated to the Combined Authority from the Department for Business and Trade to support the adult skills within the Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy and Engineering sectors.
TVCA 19/26	DELEGATED DECISIONS Cabinet was presented with a report from the Interim Monitoring Officer, which advised of all the Delegated Decisions made since Cabinet last met on 24th April 2026. Cabinet was invited to NOTE the Delegated Decisions. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. There were no questions or comments. RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the Delegated Decisions made since Cabinet last met on 24th April 2026.
TVCA 93/25	DATES AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETING • Friday 31st July 2026 10am