



Tees Valley Combined Authority Annual General Meeting

Friday 26 June 2026 at 10:00am

Venue: Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport, Darlington, DL2 1NJ

AGENDA

Open to the Public and Press

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest.
- 3. Governance & Appointment**
To confirm appointments to Cabinet, Boards and Committees.
- 4. Date and Time of Future Meetings for 2026/2027**
 - Friday 31st July 2026
 - Friday 25th September 2026
 - Friday 11th December 2026
 - Friday 29th January 2027
 - Friday 19th March 2027
 - Friday 25th June 2027

All of the above meetings are to commence at 10:00am

Members of the Public – Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please contact: The Governance Team – tvvagovernance@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

Membership

The Tees Valley Combined Authority comprises of the following membership:

Mayor Ben Houchen	Chair, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Councillor Stephen Harker	Leader, Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Graham Harrison	Leader, Hartlepool Borough Council
Mayor Chris Cooke	Mayor, Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Alec Brown	Leader, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Councillor Lisa Evans	Leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Matthew Ord	Chair, Tees Valley Business Board



Tees Valley Combined Authority Declaration of Interests Procedures

1. The purpose of this note is to provide advice and guidance to all members (the Mayor, elected and co-opted members, substitute members and associate members) of the Combined Authority Cabinet, Sub-Committees and Tees Valley Business Board Board, on the procedure for declaring interests. The procedure is set out in full in the [Combined Authority's Constitution](#) under the "Code of Conduct for Members" (Appendix 8).

Personal Interests

2. The Code of Conduct sets out in full, the principles on the general conduct of members in their capacity at the Combined Authority. As a general principle, members should act impartially and should not use their position at the Combined Authority to further their personal or private interests.
3. There are two types of personal interests covered by the constitution:
 - a. "disclosable pecuniary interests". In general, a disclosable pecuniary interest will involve any financial interests, such as paid employment or membership of a body, interests in contracts, or ownership of land or shares. Members have a pecuniary interest in a matter where there is a reasonable likelihood or expectation that the business to be considered will affect your well-being or financial position, or the well-being or financial position of the following persons:
 - i. a member of your family;
 - ii. any person with whom you have a close association;
 - iii. in relation to a) and b) above, their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or a company of which they are a director;
 - iv. any person or body in whom persons described in a) and b) above have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
 - v. any body as described in paragraph 3 b) i) and ii) below.
 - b. Any other personal interests. You have a personal interest in any business of the Combined Authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:
 - i. any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) and to which you are appointed or nominated by the Combined Authority;
 - ii. any body which:
 - exercises functions of a public nature;
 - is directed to charitable purposes;
 - one of whose principle purposes includes influencing public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management).

Declarations of interest relating to the Councils' commercial role

4. The constituent councils of the Combined Authority are closely integrated with its governance and financial arrangements, and financial relationships between the Combined Authority and Councils do not in themselves create a conflict of interest for Council Leaders who are also Combined Authority Cabinet members. Nor is it a conflict
Anything is possible



of interest if the Combined Authority supports activities within a particular council boundary. Nevertheless, there are specific circumstances where the Cabinet is considering entering into direct contractual arrangements with a council, for example in relation to a particular commercial investment project, or in which that council is a co-funder. In these circumstances a non-pecuniary declaration of interest should be made by the Council Leader or their substitute.

Procedures for Declaring Interests

5. In line with the Code of Conduct, members are required to adhere to the following procedures for declaring interests:

Register of Interests

6. Each member is required to complete a register of interests form with their personal interests, within 28 days of their appointment to the Combined Authority. If no declaration is received from elected members within 28 days the matter may be referred to the Head of Paid Service of your local authority and Leader of the political group you represent on your council for action. If a Declaration is not submitted within an appropriate timescale you may be prevented from attending committee meetings.
7. Details of any personal interests registered will be published on the Combined Authority's website, with the full register available at the Combined Authority's offices for public inspection. The form will be updated on an annual basis but it is the responsibility of each member to notify the Monitoring Officer of any changes to the register throughout the year. Notification of a change must be made to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of becoming aware of that change.

Declaration of Interests at Meetings

8. The Combined Authority will include a standing item at the start of each meeting for declaration of interests. Where members are aware that any of their personal interests are relevant to an item of business being considered at a meeting they are attending, they must declare that interest either during the standing item on the agenda, at the start of the consideration of the item of business, or when the interest becomes apparent, if later.
9. Where members consider that their interest could be considered by the public as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the members' judgement then they may not participate in any discussion and voting on the matter at the meeting, but may attend the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the business, before it is discussed and voted upon.
10. If the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest (as summarised in paragraph 3a) then the member must leave the meeting room during discussion and voting on the item of business, but may make representations, give evidence and answer questions before leaving the meeting room. Failure to comply with the requirements in relation to disclosable pecuniary interests is a criminal offence.

Sensitive Information

Anything is possible



11. Members can seek the advice of the monitoring officer if they consider that the disclosure of their personal interests contains sensitive information.

Annual General Meeting

Tees Valley Combined Authority

Date	26 June 2026	
Report Title	Governance and Appointments	
Agenda Item	3	
Accountable Cabinet Member	Ben Houchen Tees Valley Mayor	
Accountable Chief Officer	Tom Bryant Chief Executive	
Accountable Employee	Jeanette McGarry Interim Monitoring Officer	
Report considered by	A draft version of this report was circulated in advance of an Informal Cabinet meeting on the 12 June 2026.	
Key Decision	Yes	No X
Public Report	Yes X	No
Voting arrangements		In accordance with the Constitution.

Recommendation(s)

The Combined Authority Cabinet is recommended to:

A	<u>NOTE</u> the appointment of the Deputy Mayor as detailed in Paragraph 5;
B	<u>NOTE</u> the appointment to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet as detailed in Paragraph 7;
C	<u>AGREE</u> the Portfolio responsibilities proposed by the Tees Valley Mayor as detailed in paragraph 12;
D	<u>APPROVE</u> the appointments to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as detailed in Paragraph 15;

E	APPROVE the appointments to the Transport Committee as detailed in Paragraph 17;
F	APPROVE the appointments to the Audit & Governance Committee as detailed in Paragraph 20;
G	NOTE that the membership of the Investment Committee will be brought to a future Cabinet meeting as detailed in paragraph 24;
H	NOTE the appointment of the Independent Persons and the partnership work with the Constituent Authorities as detailed in paragraph 25;
I	NOTE the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel as detailed in paragraph 26;
J	NOTE that a full review of the Constitution will be undertaken and presented to the July Cabinet meeting as detailed in paragraph 27;
K	NOTE that the Member Allowance is Scheme is under review and a report will be presented to a future Cabinet meeting;
L	APPROVE the appointments of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as detailed in paragraph 30 of this Report;
M	NOTE that the position in respect of the Chair and Vice Chair of Audit & Governance Committee as detailed in paragraph 31;
N	NOTE the position in respect of the Development Corporation Board membership as detailed in paragraph 32;
O	NOTE the appointments in respect of the Teesside Freeport Governance Board as detailed in paragraph 33.

Purpose

1. The report details various appointments for agreement and confirmation by the Combined Authority Cabinet at its Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Executive Summary

2. Constitutionally, there are a number of items of business that the Combined Authority Cabinet is required to note, agree and approve at its AGM, and these are set out below.

Detail

Statutory Appointments

Chair and Deputy Mayor

3. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution notes that the Mayor of the Tees Valley is the Chair of the Tees Valley Combined Authority. Cabinet is therefore asked to **NOTE** that the Mayor is the Chair of the Combined Authority.
4. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution provides that the Mayor shall appoint a Deputy Mayor from amongst the Cabinet Members representing the Constituent Authorities, determined annually by rotation in the order set out in the Constitution.
5. In line with the rotation referred to above, Mayor Chris Cooke, Mayor of Middlesbrough, is appointed by the Mayor as the Deputy Mayor for the 2026-27 municipal year. Cabinet is therefore asked to **NOTE** the appointment of Mayor Cooke as the Deputy Mayor for the 2026-27 municipal year.

Cabinet

6. Cabinet is the decision-making body for the Combined Authority. The Tees Valley Mayor chairs the Cabinet, which has previously been made up of the five Constituent Authority Leaders, and the Chair of the Business Board as a non-voting member.

The Legislation which sets out the requirements of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet is the Tees Valley Combined Authority Order 2016 ('TVCA Order'), Schedule 1, which states:

'1(1) Each constituent council must appoint one of its elected members to be a member of the Combined Authority.

(2) Each constituent council must appoint another of its elected members to act as a member of the Combined Authority in the absence of the member appointed under sub-paragraph (1) ("the substitute member").

(3) The Local Enterprise Partnership [the Business Board] must nominate one of its members to be a member of the Combined Authority.

(4) The Local Enterprise Partnership [the Business Board] must nominate another of its members to act as a member of the Combined Authority in the absence of the member appointed under sub-paragraph (3) ("the substitute member").

7. In accordance with Paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 1 of the TVCA Order, the Constituent Authorities and the Business Board have made the following appointments for Cabinet, and it is for Cabinet to note those appointments.

Chair / Tees Valley Mayor	Mayor Ben Houchen
Cabinet Member	Councillor Stephen Harker - Darlington
Cabinet Member	Councillor Graham Harrison - Hartlepool
Cabinet Member/Deputy Mayor	Mayor Chris Cooke - Middlesbrough

Cabinet Member	Councillor Alec Brown – Redcar & Cleveland
Cabinet Member	Councillor Lisa Evans- Stockton
Member (Business Board)	Matthew Ord

Substitute Cabinet Member (Darlington)	Councillor Chris McEwan
Substitute Cabinet Member (Hartlepool)	Councillor Rob Darby
Substitute Cabinet Member (Middlesbrough)	Councillor Philippa Storey
Substitute Cabinet Member (Redcar & Cleveland)	Councillor Carrie Richardson
Substitute Cabinet Member (Stockton)	Councillor Paul Rowling
Substitute Business Board Member	(TBC)

Cabinet is asked to **NOTE** the appointments to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet

Cabinet Portfolio Holders

8. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution provides that the Annual General Meeting of the Combined Authority shall agree the portfolio responsibilities of each of the Leaders and any functions delegated to them.
9. The Mayor, as directly elected Chair of the Cabinet, will propose portfolio positions and portfolio leads for Cabinet to consider and approve.
10. In developing these proposals, the Mayor has engaged with Cabinet Members. The outcome of this engagement and the Mayor's proposed portfolio arrangements are set out below for consideration and approval.
11. The portfolios of the Combined Authority have historically been as follows:
 - Education, Employment and Skills;
 - Business Growth and Net Zero;
 - Inward Investment & Finance;
 - Creative Place;
 - Transport & Infrastructure.
12. The Mayor's proposed portfolio structure and associated responsibilities are as follows:
 - Mayor Chris Cooke – Finance & Organisational Improvement and Business Growth;
 - Councillor Lisa Evans - Employment & Skills;
 - Councillor Steve Harker – Transport & Digital infrastructure;

- Councillor Graham Harrison - Energy Infrastructure and Housing (joint portfolio with the Tees Valley Mayor);
- Councillor Alec Brown – Inward Investment & Tourism;
- Mayor Ben Houchen - Investment, Housing (joint portfolio) & Planning & Development Corporations.

Cabinet is asked to **AGREE** the portfolio responsibilities proposed by the Tees Valley Mayor.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- This statutory committee reviews the policies and operations of the Combined Authority, ensuring effective democratic scrutiny of decisions. Members have been appointed by each of the constituent authorities, on the basis of political balance across the Tees Valley as required by legislation and set out in the Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution.
- The Tees Valley Combined Authority Order 2016 provides that:
‘(1) The Combined Authority must appoint at least three members of each of the constituent councils to the overview and scrutiny committee appointed by the Combined Authority, so that the members of the committee taken as a whole reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the constituent councils.’
- In order to reflect the balance of the political parties amongst the members of the constituent authorities, the constituent authorities have proposed the following appointments to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet is asked to approve these appointments:

Member	Councillor Ian Haszeldine	Darlington	Labour
Member	Councillor Sonia Kane	Darlington	Labour
Member	Councillor Andy Keir	Darlington	Conservative
Member	Councillor John Nelson	Hartlepool	Labour
Member	Councillor Nick Anderson	Hartlepool	Reform
Member	Councillor Peter Storey	Hartlepool	Reform
Member	Councillor Ian Blades	Middlesbrough	Labour
Member	Councillor David Branson	Middlesbrough	Labour
Member	Councillor Dennis McCabe	Middlesbrough	MICA
Member	Councillor Lynn Pallister	Redcar & Cleveland	Labour
Member	Councillor Glyn Nightingale	Redcar & Cleveland	Liberal Democrat

Member	Councillor Wayne Davies	Redcar & Cleveland	RIG
Member	Councillor Jim Beall	Stockton	Labour
Member	Councillor Tony Riordan	Stockton	Conservative
Member	Councillor Lynn Hall	Stockton	Conservative
Substitute Member	Councillor Mary Layton	Darlington	Labour
Substitute Member	Councillor David Ray	Darlington	Labour
Substitute Member	Councillor Heather Scott	Darlington	Conservative
Substitute Member	TBC	Hartlepool	Labour
Substitute Member	Councillor Richie Hughes	Hartlepool	Reform
Substitute Member	TBC	Hartlepool	Reform
Substitute Member	Councillor Lewis Young	Middlesbrough	Labour
Substitute Member	VACANCY	Middlesbrough	Labour
Substitute Member	Councillor Ian Morrish	Middlesbrough	MICA
Substitute Member	Councillor Margaret O'Donoghue	Redcar & Cleveland	Labour
Substitute Member	Councillor Jemma Joy	Redcar & Cleveland	Liberal Democrat
Substitute Member	Councillor S Kay	Redcar & Cleveland	RIG
Substitute Member	Councillor Mark Besford	Stockton	Labour
Substitute Member	Councillor Hilary Vickers	Stockton	Conservative
Substitute Member	Councillor John Coulson	Stockton	Conservative

Cabinet is asked to **APPROVE** the appointments to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Transport Committee

- This statutory committee reviews transport strategy and policies of the Combined Authority and makes recommendations to Cabinet.

The Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution provides that:

- (a) the Transport Committee is Chaired by the Portfolio holder for Transport and Infrastructure;
- (b) members are drawn from each of the constituent authorities and are the executive member with transport responsibilities from each of those authorities;
- (c) the Tees Valley Business Board shall nominate one of its private sector members to attend Transport Committee meetings on a non-voting basis, with the right to fully participate in its deliberations.

17. The proposed appointments for the Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee are:

Chair	Transport Portfolio Holder	Combined Authority Cabinet Member
Member	Councillor Libby McCollom	Darlington Executive Member
Member	Councillor Amanda Napper	Hartlepool Executive Member
Member	Councillor Theo Furness	Middlesbrough Executive Member
Member	Councillor Carl Quartermain	Redcar & Cleveland Executive Member
Member	Councillor Richard Eglington	Stockton Executive Member
Tees Valley Business Board member	TBC	
Substitute Member	Councillor Neil Johnson	Darlington
Substitute Member	Councillor Ronnie Buglass	Hartlepool
Substitute Member	Councillor Peter Gavigan	Middlesbrough
Substitute Member	Councillor Marian Fairley	Redcar & Cleveland
Substitute Member	Councillor Paul Rowling	Stockton

Cabinet is asked to **APPROVE** the appointments to the Transport Committee

Audit and Governance Committee

18. Audit & Governance Committee is the statutory committee which assures sound governance and financial management of the Combined Authority. Members have been appointed from each constituent authority, on the basis of political balance, as required by legislation and detailed in the constitution, plus up to five independent members.

19. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution provides that each Constituent Authority shall nominate a Member and Substitute Member from amongst the Members of that authority with current or recent experience of having served on its Audit or Governance committees, and who is not also a Member or Substitute Member of the Combined Authority Cabinet or its Sub- Committees. The Members nominated by the Constituent Authorities shall reflect, so far as reasonably practicable, the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the Constituent Authorities collectively.
20. The nominations for Audit & Governance Committee from the Constituent Authorities are as follows:

Member	Councillor Mandy Porter	Darlington	Labour
Member	Councillor Brenda Harrison	Hartlepool	Labour
Member	Councillor Nicky Walker	Middlesbrough	Labour
Member	Councillor Peter Grogan	Redcar & Cleveland	Conservative
Member	Councillor Mohammed Mazi	Stockton	Conservative

Substitute Member	Councillor Andrew Anderson	Darlington	Labour
Substitute Member	TBC	Hartlepool	Labour
Substitute Member	Councillor Jill Ewan	Middlesbrough	Labour
Substitute Member	Councillor Paul Salvin	Redcar & Cleveland	Conservative
Substitute Member	Councillor Niall Innes	Stockton	Conservative

Cabinet is asked to **APPROVE** the appointments to Audit & Governance Committee as detailed above.

21. In addition to the 5 Constituent Authority Member appointments above, the Tees Valley Combined Authority Constitution provides that the Authority will appoint up to four independent persons to the Audit and Governance Committee to provide advice in relation to finance and standards matters. Those persons are appointed for a fixed term, and no action is required from TVCA Cabinet. Independent person appointments are sought from across the region and a background in finance, law, audit and governance is welcomed. The Authority is currently in the process of recruiting independent persons.

Investment Committee

22. Following Cabinet approval on the 24th April 2026 to establish an Investment Committee, TVCA has been engaging with constituent local authorities to secure nominations for membership. The purpose of the Investment Committee is to provide strategy advice and guidance on investment matters in support of the exercise of

Combined Authority and Mayoral functions. It will also provide direction, steer and operational decision-making as delegated by the Combined Authority.

23. The Investment Committee seeks to act in a regional capacity to support the development of the investment vision for the Tees Valley Combined Authority and make recommendations to the Combined Authority Cabinet, in consultation with wider thematic committees who will develop thematic investment programme proposals.
24. Cabinet is asked to **NOTE** that the membership of the Investment Committee will be brought to a future meeting.

Independent Persons to Support the Monitoring Officer with Standards Matters

25. Three Independent Persons to support the Monitoring Officer with any potential alleged Code of Conduct breaches and other Standards matters have been appointed. The Monitoring Officer is working with the Tees Valley Constituent Authorities to ensure that we are all able to access a pool of Independent Persons. Cabinet is asked to **NOTE** the appointment of the Independent Persons and the partnership work with the Constituent Authorities.

Independent Remuneration Panel

26. Following Cabinet approval on the 12 December 2025 to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), TVCA engaged with constituent local authorities to secure nominations for panel membership. Cabinet approved the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel at its meeting on 24th April 2026.

Local Authority	Representative
Darlington Borough Council	Dr Declan Hall (Chair)
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	Lesley Beer
Middlesbrough Council	Stuart Green
Stockton on Tees Borough Council	Anthony Campbell
Hartlepool Borough Council	Peter Greenwell

Cabinet is asked to **NOTE** the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

TVCA Constitution

27. Cabinet is asked to **NOTE** that, as part of the ongoing review of governance arrangements and as previously noted by Cabinet at the meeting on 24th April 2026, a full review of the TVCA Constitution will be presented to the July Cabinet meeting.

Members Allowance Scheme 2026-2027

28. Cabinet is asked to **NOTE** that the Member Allowance is Scheme is under review and a report will be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.

Chair of TVCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Audit & Governance Committee

29. At its meeting on 10 June 2026, the Tees Valley Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed to recommend the following appointments for approval by Cabinet:
- a. Councillor Ian Blades, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
 - b. Councillor Ian Haszeldine, Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
30. Cabinet is asked to **APPROVE**:
- a. the appointment of Councillor Ian Blades as Chair of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
 - b. the appointment of Councillor Ian Haszeldine, Vice Chair of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
31. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee and the Vice Chair of the Transport Committee will be brought forward to a future Cabinet meeting, once nominations have been received and agreed following their next respective meetings.

Development Corporation Boards

32. Cabinet is asked to **NOTE** that the existing Board Members' terms of office will be extended pending the outcome of the Mayoral Review of the Development Corporations.

Teesside Freeport Governance Board

33. The following appointments are presented to **NOTE**, having been ratified by the Chief Executive & the Monitoring Officer to enable the continued and effective conduct of business of the Teesside Freeport Governance Board:

Member	Role
Craig Peacock	SRO and Representative of the Primary Custom Zone

Tracy Hall	Substitute for Redcar Bulk Terminal
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Other non-statutory/advisory groups

34. There are currently a number of advisory officer groups which feed into the overall governance processes for TVCA. A review of these officer groups is underway, in collaboration with Portfolio holders.

Partnership & Engagement

35. A draft version of this report was circulated in advance and discussed at Informal Cabinet meetings on 12 June 2026.

Appendices

36. None

Cabinet is requested to consider the following identified implications:

Financial Implications

37. The recommendations within this report are primarily concerned with governance, appointments and constitutional requirements and, as such, do not in themselves give rise to any significant new financial commitments. The operation of the Combined Authority Cabinet and its committees, including Overview and Scrutiny, Transport, and Audit and Governance, is already supported through existing approved budgets and resources. The Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026–27 is currently under review and any financial implications arising from changes to that scheme will be subject to future Cabinet consideration and approval.
38. While the establishment and future operation of the Investment Committee and ongoing governance reviews may influence future financial decision-making and resource allocation, no direct financial implications arise from the recommendations set out in this report at this time.
- Overall, all activities can be contained within existing budgetary provisions.

Legal Implications

39.	The report relates to the Constitution of the Combined Authority which sets out the appropriate statutory framework. The Constitution came into effect on 8 th May 2017 and is legally binding.			
Equality & Diversity Implications				
40.	There is no expected impact on Equality and Diversity within this report.			
Other Significant Implications (Tick other implications provided and provide detail in box below)				
Risk	X	Assurance Framework		Procurement
Improvement	X	Environment		HR & IT
41.	Risk This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.			
42.	Improvement The appointments outlined within this report will ensure that clear, compliant and transparent decision-making takes place, ensuring that TVCA is a well-run Combined Authority.			