Business Board held on Monday, 7 April 2025 at 1.00pm

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

Chair:	Siobhan McArdle (SM)
Members: Officers and other representatives:	Imran Anwar (IA) Matthew Ord (MO) Alison Gwynn (AG) Sophie Walton (SW) David Gardner (DG) Gary Briston (GB) Stephen Cummings (SC) Tom Bryant (TB), TVCA Interim Chief Executive Sarah Walker (SaW), TVCA Interim Director of Business Solutions Charlie Kemp (CK), TVCA Interim Head of Business Solutions Alan Weston (AW), TVCA Head of Transport Connor Malone (CM), TVCA Governance and Scrutiny Officer

No.	Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion
1.	Welcome and Introductions	The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the January Business Board meeting.
2.	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were submitted by Kevin O'Hare, Mike Racz, Tania Cooper.
3.	Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations made at this point.
4.	Minutes of the last meeting	Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2025 were approved as accurate record. Actions:

Title	Detail	Status
A.1_ 27.01.25 – item 5 – Chairs Update	Confirmation that concerns of the board in relation to the Cabinet confidential papers be raised at the 31st January Cabinet.	Action Closed – Board concerns raised at Cabinet.
A.2_ 27.01.25 – Item 6 – (SAGU)	MR to engage with DCC / Scottish Enterprise to understand operation of investment funds	Awaiting update – MR not in attendance.

A.3_ 27.01.25 – Item 6 – (SAGU)	SM to invite TVM to a meeting for a Q&A session.	Action Closed – TVM invited to attend June meeting.
A.4_27.01.25 – Item 6 – (SAGU)	CM to engage Charlie Kemp and ensure the report is circulated to members of the board	CK to circulate the update report to board.
A.5_27.01.25 – Item 6 – (SAGU)	CM to arrange for Tom Bryant to attend the subsequent Business Board	Action closed.
A.6_27.01.25 – Item 7- Business Board Communications Strategy	CP to arrange a workshop and explore the possibility of a 'town hall' meeting between Business Board and TVCA Officers.	Awaiting update.
A.7_27.01.25 – Item 7- Business Board Communications Strategy	Board Members to inform CP of any additional events that would benefit the board involvement.	Ongoing Action
A.8_27.01.25 – Item 10- Investment Zone Update	SaW / AG to meet in regard to data capacity / power capacity issues.	Awaiting update.

5.	Chair's Update	The Chair welcomed Professor Stephen Cummings as a new member to the board. Professor Cummings is replacing Paul Croney as representative for Teesside University. Members were informed that Tom Bryant, TVCA interim Chief Executive, will be attending Business Board going forward. The role for Chief Executive is out to advert alongside the Director of Inward Investment and Marketing. The Chair informed members of recent conversations with DBT and ongoing work in relation to export events. Members considered identification of local businesses that would benefit and considered development of data sharing. Board discussed arranging a meeting at the Darlington Economic Campus and engaging with WYCA on their business intelligence dashboard.
6.	Business Solutions	Members received an update on the business solutions directorate from the interim Director of Business Solutions and the interim head of Business Solutions. They informed members of the work to review the service and the intention to work closer with the Board. Discussions were held on the need to develop the business support offer and understand both the data and barriers for growth within the Tees Valley. Consideration has been taken to the 'offer' to business with a key focus on a pyramid format, delivering open self-service options at the

		lowest section, the middle section would be more targeted support, with the top of the pyramid being recruited programmes with high growth and transformational impact. Officers hope to launch a new offer by Summer. Queries were raised on the potential gap in the market whilst the Authority delivers this service, with members noting capacity and timing concerns for the delivery. Officers noted concerns and informed members that there are decisions that can be made outside of the Cabinet process under delegation, they were keen to conduct roundtables to ensure improvements are made to the UKSPF process to prevent concerns reoccurring. Members discussed concerns with the open access concept and the lack of direct support to SME's. They explored the issues of evaluation for the previous years schemes and sought to understand how some of the businesses from the previous cohort weren't commissionable with lessons learnt. Action Point: - SWa / CK to circulate information on local growth plans and share details of the proposed roundtables with Board.
7.	Transport: CRSTS2	Alan Weston, TVCA Head of Transport, joined the meeting to update members on the Transport programme and ongoing developments. Members were informed that the Authority has an agreed outline programme up to 2027 and is actively developing a broad range of projects. This information is regularly reporting to Cabinet to outline the status of these projects. Members discussed a requirement to ensure a balance in modal shift. They felt that there had been a lot of 'talk' around it but little action, they supported a greater integration when considering modal shift. Officers informed the board that they were hopeful for longer capital funding settlements in the future. Current BSIP allocations are time sensitive, and they would be supportive of longer-term funding agreements. Action Point: AW to update the board following the spending review on the future of CRSTS2 proposals subject to funding.
	Break	

TEES VALLEY

8.	Strategic Action Group Update	The Chair informed members that originally the Mayor was to attend to answer questions of the Board, they have offered apologies due to diary constraints. They discussed that the topics were likely to be around organisational key prioritises and the wider challenges of the Authority including barriers to growth. Members raised concerns with previously delivered workshops on UKSPF and the concerns of Businesses in attendance. They felt that the Small to Medium Enterprise sector was lacking support and there is a need for greater stakeholder engagement. Board discussed a need to develop a pipeline of proposals that could be picked up as and when finance is available. Further conversation was held on the issues of relationships between the LA's and Combined Authority. Members were keen to have an engaged discussion with directors to support alignment between the Board and the Authority. <u>Best Value Notice</u> Tom Bryant discussed the Best Value Notice with Members providing an overview of what it means, and the process required for the Authority to clear the notice. They were clear that the notice is non statutory and is the lighter version of the notice, it would be in place for 12 months. They informed members that there is a focus on 'culture and improvements' and the need to increase the relationship with the LGA Panel. Members queried the involvement of the Board and concerns with investor interest in the region with the notice affecting investor confidence. They felt that it could be an opportunity to draw a line in the sand and improve the confidence in the region when the notice period concludes. Further discussion was held on the LA's concerns that they weren't consulted enough in advance of decisions and that portfolio holders felt they didn't have ownership over their areas. Tom provided an overview of the process in advance of Cabinet and informed that papers go through a cycle of review with the LA's over an 8-week period in advance of Cabinet. Members discussed the need to improve the relationship with the LA's and leaders to satisfy their concerns. They touched on the likely increased responsibility within the region under the devolution paper. Action Point: - To facilitate a meeting between Board and Directors to discuss the relationship between the Board and the Authority.

9.	AOB	Craig Peacock, TVCA Head of Marketing and Communications, joined members and discussed events and the expectation of Board in regard to UKREiiF.
10.	Date and Time of Next Meeting	Monday, 2nd June 2025 at 1.00pm (Meeting venue to be confirmed)