



## Business Board held on Tuesday, 9 September 2025 at 1.00pm

Venue: LV Shipping, Middlesbrough.

<b>Chair:</b>	Matthew Ord (MO)
<b>Members:</b>	Imran Anwar (IA) Alison Gwynn (AG) Sophie Walton (SW) David Gardner (DG) Gary Briston (GB) Stephen Cummings (SC) -Virtually
<b>Officers and other representatives:</b>	Tom Bryant (TB), TVCA Chief Executive Connor Malone (CM), TVCA Governance and Scrutiny Officer Steph Rose (SR) / Joseph Demetriou (JD), TVCA Policy Team

No	Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion
1.	Welcome and Introductions	The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the September Business Board meeting.
2.	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were submitted by Tania Cooper.
3.	Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations made at this point.
4.	Minutes of the last meeting	Board reviewed the minutes of 2 June 2025.  The Chair noted the comments made by Tania Cooper via email and requested that the minutes be approved subject to those amendments being made.
5.	General Discussion	Members held an open discussion on movement since the last meeting of Board. They sought to clarify the establishment of the Board and the position of the Board moving forward.  They discussed the need to develop the Board further and would explore this following the appointment of the Chair following the interviews.
6.	Local Growth Plan Update	Members received a presentation from the TVCA Policy Team providing an update on the progress of the local growth plan work and the support potentially needed from the Board.

		<p>Sophie Walton sought to understand the 'end point' for the plan and how the team envisioned the Board supporting the work. Steph Rose responded to provide that they wanted the Board to be as involved as practical and hope the full plan will be presented to March Cabinet, they clarified that the LGP was not a TVCA Plan but a 'Tees Valley' plan. The interim plan would be provided to Cabinet in December.</p> <p>Steph Rose informed members that Litchfield's had been appointed to engage with stakeholders over a 2 month period and have been provided with a 'draft narrative' to support the evidence gathering. They noted the need to bring evidence to life and wanted to engage with the best method of engagement with the Business Board.</p> <p>Imran Anwar requested clarity with the alignment of the investment zones and growth plans. Steph Rose provided some clarity around the two pieces of work and noted that the industrial strategy zones would be seen as the delivery arm of the growth plan.</p> <p>Further discussion was held on the current status of other MCA plans, and it was noted that NECA have published an interim plan.</p> <p>Alison Gwynn felt it would be helpful to work with Litchfield's to understand the definitions of the clusters (such as digital / culture) and would appreciate additional data being provided to members.</p>
7.	TVCA Chief Executive	<p>Tom Bryant, TVCA Chief Executive, joined the meeting virtually to update the Board on recent organisational changes and receive questions from members.</p> <p>Tom Bryant informed members of the recent changes within the senior management team and the interim positions supporting the organisation through the best value notice. They informed Board that the interim director posts for infrastructure and business solutions would shortly be going out for advertisement, with permanent posts hopefully later in the year.</p> <p>They discussed the status of the BVN and additional recommendation letters received from the external auditors on the accounts. Board was further informed of the Independent Advisory Board and the role they are delivering.</p> <p>The Chair sought to understand the ongoing improvements and requested further information. Tom Bryant discussed the need for the Authority to engage further and a greater emphasis on managers to lead, they felt that the Authority needed to engage within the community and reset relationships with stakeholders.</p> <p>Some discussion was held on the relationship between the Authority and the LA's and how improvements are already being seen to the relationship between Cabinet and their portfolios.</p>

		<p>Members felt it would be helpful to ensure information was being fed back to the Board and understanding how all the 'groups / committees etc' fit into the organisation, ideally in an infographic format. Tom Bryant informed members he would request an infographic be arranged for Board.</p> <p>Members further discussed the value in ensuring Board had sight of plans and strategy papers and were provided with supportive information for when they are acting in an ambassadorial capacity on behalf of the Authority, they felt they often weren't equipped with the full information needed to champion the region at national events.</p> <p>Following the appointment of the Chair and the appointee being given some time to settle in, the Board will likely begin recruitment for more members in February subject to a review of the Board.</p>
8.	Date and Time of Next Meeting	Meetings to be confirmed following the appointment of the Chair.