



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

## Tees Valley Combined Authority

Summary of responses to the government consultation on  
proposal to establish a combined authority for Tees Valley



© Crown copyright, 2016

*Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with the Crown.*

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/> or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This document/publication is also available on our website at [www.gov.uk/dclg](http://www.gov.uk/dclg)

If you have any enquiries regarding this document/publication, complete the form at <http://forms.communities.gov.uk/> or write to us at:

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF  
Telephone: 030 3444 0000

For all our latest news and updates follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

February 2016

ISBN: 978-1-4098-4767-0.

# Contents

Section 1	Introduction.....	4
Section 2	The consultation.....	5
Section 3	Summary of responses.....	6-8

## Section 1: Introduction

1. The Secretary of State has laid before Parliament a draft Order, which if approved by Parliament and subsequently made, will establish the Tees Valley Combined Authority. This Order is to be made under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act).
2. It is for the councils concerned to initiate the process for establishing a combined authority, by undertaking a governance review and publishing a scheme for such an authority. The constituent councils that comprise the proposed Combined Authority – the councils of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees – together with Tees Valley Unlimited, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), proposed a combined authority that will, across the area concerned, exercise transport, economic development and regeneration functions.
3. The Secretary of State consulted all authorities that are within the proposed area of the Combined Authority, and other persons considered appropriate, on proposals to establish a combined authority for Tees Valley. This paper summarises the responses received to this consultation.
4. The Secretary of State considers that establishing the Tees Valley Combined Authority is likely to improve the exercise of transport, economic development and regeneration functions in the area to which the draft Order relates. The Secretary of State has given regard to the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities and to secure effective and convenient local government.
5. The Secretary of State has also given regard to the following:
  - The [Devolution Deal](#) agreed between the Government, the five constituent councils and the LEP on 23 October 2015. The Devolution Deal is an agreement in principle for a radical devolution of funding, powers and responsibilities to take forward the Government’s manifesto commitment to “devolve powers and budgets to boost local growth”, in effect reversing more than a century of centralising power in Whitehall.<sup>1</sup>
  - The consultation carried out between December 2014 – January 2015 by the constituent councils and the LEP. This was used to prepare the [governance review](#)<sup>2</sup> and scheme. Close to 2,000 responses were received, including 1,638 from local residents. These highlighted strong local support for the proposed Combined Authority.
6. In reaching the conclusion to lay this draft Order, the Secretary of State has adopted the policy that, while considering the circumstances of each case, where councils come forward with proposals for a combined authority that will boost economic growth, improve productivity and rebalance the economy, he will invite Parliament to approve the Order establishing the Combined Authority.

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tees-valley-devolution-deal>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk/media/308031/governance\\_review.pdf](https://www.teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk/media/308031/governance_review.pdf)

## Section 2: The consultation

7. The consultation sought views on the proposal to establish the Tees Valley Combined Authority and in particular:
  - On whether it was considered that establishing the proposed combined authority would be likely to improve the provision of transport in the area and its effectiveness and efficiency, the provision of economic development and regeneration in the area, and the economic conditions in the area;
  - On how establishing such an authority may impact on the identities and interests of local communities and on securing effective and convenient local government; and
  - On the proposed constitutional arrangements and functions for the combined authority.
8. The consultation ran for six weeks between 28 October and 9 December 2015. The [consultation document](#)<sup>3</sup> was available on the GOV.UK website and the councils' websites. Responses could be returned to the Department for Communities and Local Government by email or by post. The councils consulted were invited to draw the consultation to the attention of members of the public, local businesses and their representative bodies and the voluntary sector.
9. The statutory consultees were the councils of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees. In addition the Secretary of State considered it appropriate to consult the LEP and the neighbouring councils of Durham, Hambleton, North Yorkshire, Richmondshire and Scarborough and the North East Combined Authority.
10. The Secretary of State also welcomed comments from members of the public, local businesses and their representative bodies and representatives of the voluntary sector.

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposal-to-establish-a-combined-authority-for-tees-valley>

## Section 3: Summary of responses

### Overview

11. The Government received 28 representations on the proposal to establish a combined authority for Tees Valley. Of these there were:
  - 11 from local residents and 1 from a local councillor;
  - 9 from local authorities and the LEP (the statutory consultees and other organisations invited to respond); and
  - 7 from local organisations (charities, local education providers, businesses)
12. Of the 28 responses, four expressed views outside the scope of the consultation. Of the remaining 24 responses, 67 per cent supported the proposal to establish a combined authority for Tees Valley. Supporters of the proposals stated they saw clear opportunities to improve economic prosperity and expressed the opinion that local collaboration was pivotal to achieving this goal. Those who opposed the proposals largely expressed concerns relating to local identity.
13. The table below provides a summary of the 24 responses to the consultation, outlining the views of each group in relation to the three questions posed in the consultation.

<b>Respondee</b>	<b>Q1. On whether the combined authority would be likely to improve provision of transport, economic development and regeneration in the area.</b>	<b>Q2. On how establishing a combined authority may impact on identities/interests of local communities and securing effective/convenient local government.</b>	<b>Q3. On the proposed constitutional arrangements and functions for the combined authority.</b>
<b>Statutory consultees (5)</b>	Likely to improve (5)	Positive impact (5)	Content (5)
<b>Other organisations invited to respond (4)</b>	Support (4)	Positive impact (4)	Content (4)
<b>Individuals (11)</b>	No view (8) Oppose (3)	Positive impact (1) No view (3) Negative impact (7)	Content (1) No view (7) Concerns (3)
<b>Local organisations (4)</b>	Likely to improve (4)	Positive impact (4)	Content (4)

## **Statutory consultees**

14. The statutory consultees all responded to the consultation and confirmed strong support for the establishment of the proposed Combined Authority. They stated that the proposed Combined Authority would improve transport, economic development and regeneration to deliver growth across the functional economic area. They also saw the proposed Combined Authority as an extension of the current arrangements and central to the delivery of the Devolution Deal. They again drew attention to the local consultation that had been undertaken previously that demonstrated local support for the proposals.

## **Other organisations invited to respond by the Secretary of State**

15. All other organisations invited to respond who responded expressed support for the proposal to establish a combined authority for Tees Valley. This included the LEP, which expressed unconditional support for the proposal and looked forward to working with the Combined Authority.
16. The neighbouring councils of Durham and North Yorkshire, as well as the North East Combined Authority, supported the proposals. All expressed a willingness to collaborate with the proposed Combined Authority in the pursuit of mutual economic benefits across the region. These respondents stated the proposed Combined Authority would facilitate this collaboration.

## **Local support**

17. In an area with a population close to 670,000, only a very small number of residents responded to the proposal with concerns regarding the establishment of the Combined Authority. This includes three residents from Hartlepool who stated they did not associate themselves with the Tees Valley.
18. The Government has also considered the outcome of the consultation<sup>4</sup> carried out by the constituent councils and the LEP, in preparing the governance review and scheme. This indicated strong support from local residents. The local process ran from December 2014 to January 2015 and received nearly 2,000 responses, with 1,638 from local residents. Activities to evaluate local support included an online survey, dissemination of information through websites and publications, presentation and debate at key partnership meetings, and political debate at scrutiny and council meetings. The local consultation indicated widespread support for a combined authority for Tees Valley, with around 75 per cent of respondents agreeing it was important for the councils to work with business and 65 per cent agreeing that the Tees Valley should strengthen its partnership approach through a combined authority.
19. As well as residents, four local organisations responded to the Government consultation, including three from Hartlepool. The local organisations all expressed support for the proposals. They agreed that the Combined Authority would enhance

---

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix 4 – Consultation Report – of the Tees Valley Governance Review: Building on Strength (May 2015) [https://www.teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk/media/308031/governance\\_review.pdf](https://www.teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk/media/308031/governance_review.pdf)

current arrangements and offer opportunities to promote economic prosperity in the area.

20. Three local nature charities also responded to the consultation. However, these did not express a view on the proposal to establish a combined authority but were concerned with the lack of focus on the natural environment in plans for the area.