

**AGENDA ITEM 5****REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY  
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****FRIDAY MARCH 13th 2020****REPORT OF THE TEES VALLEY MAYOR****TEES VALLEY MAYOR'S UPDATE****SUMMARY**

This report provides a general update on the key activities of the Mayor and Combined Authority since the last Cabinet meeting, which are not covered in other reports to this meeting.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet notes the report.

**DETAIL****NET ZERO TEESSIDE**

1. Net Zero Teesside, the major initiative aiming to create the UK's first zero carbon cluster in the Tees Valley, has been formally launched and aims to be operational by 2025.
2. Led by a consortium of major energy firms, this will be the first major project to be developed on South Tees Development Corporation site and aims to decarbonise local industry by building a transportation and storage system by gathering six million tonnes of industrial CO<sub>2</sub> a year and storing it under the North Sea. The transportation and storage infrastructure will also encourage investment from industries wishing to store or use CO<sub>2</sub>, and a combined cycle gas turbine facility using carbon capture technology will also provide low carbon power to complement to renewable energy sources.
3. An extensive impact assessment on the construction phase of the project estimates an annual gross benefit of up to £450 million for the Tees Valley, supporting up to 5500 jobs.

**TEESSIDE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

4. A series of new flights have been added to the schedule at Teesside International Airport with Eastern Airlines announcing new daily routes to London, Belfast, Southampton, Cardiff and Dublin and an increase in services to Aberdeen. From May 2020 seasonal flights to the Isle of Man will also be available.

5. In addition to this, the first summer flights in nine years from Teesside to Spain will commence in July 2020, with twice weekly flights to Alicante. Balkan Holidays have also announced a doubling of their summer season flights to Bulgaria from 2021.
6. Work is also now underway on the development of the South Side of the Airport following Cabinet's approval in December 2019 of a £23.6m commercial loan to the airport.

## **EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS**

7. The Department for Education has confirmed that the Tees Valley Adult Education Budget will increase from £29.5million in 2019/20 to £30.6million for the academic year 2020/21.
8. The additional funding will be used to develop the delivery of our devolved powers for adult education as well as to pilot innovative skills programmes that will enable adults to move more quickly into employment across priority sectors, including logistics, construction, healthcare and digital.
9. In addition to this, the Combined Authority has been successfully secured a final payment of £2.5m from the Department of Work and Pensions for the Routes to Work Innovation Pilot, allowing the project to operate for a further year.
10. The Pilot supports long-term unemployed Tees Valley residents into, or closer to employment. To date 2421 people have engaged with the pilot and 374 have been supported into employment. The new funding will allow an additional 1500 residents to be supported.

## **STRATEGIC ROAD NETWORK**

11. The Combined Authority has secured £780,000 of government funding to develop improvements to A689 between Wynyard and Hartlepool town centre.
12. The funding will be used to develop a business case and design for measures aimed at increasing capacity, reducing congestion, improving journey times and supporting business growth.
13. While planning is at an early stage, areas currently under consideration include junction improvements in the Wynyard area; capacity improvement on the A19/A689 interchange; pedestrian and cycle bridge crossings of the A19; wider cycle and pedestrian connectivity and improvements at strategic points west of the A19.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

14. There are no financial implications to this report.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

15. There are no legal implications to this report.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

16. This report is an update and therefore is categorised as low risk.

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