



AGENDA ITEM 8
REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

30th JUNE 2023

REPORT OF CHAIR OF
TEES VALLEY BUSINESS BOARD

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Update

SUMMARY

This report details progress made on the implementation of the approved Tees Valley LEP Integration Plan, including the rebrand to Tees Valley Business Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet:

- i. Note the government's approval of the LEP Integration Plan.
- ii. Note Tees Valley LEP has rebranded to Tees Valley Business Board.
- iii. Note progress made on the implementation of the approved Integration Plan.

DETAIL

The Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership is set to rebrand to the Tees Valley Business Board following the announcement by the Chancellor in the Spring Budget that funding for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will cease. Prior to the announcement LEPs were required to submit a plan to Government, setting out their integration approach following the Government's Levelling up White Paper (2022). The Tees Valley LEP Integration Plan was submitted to Government in July 2022 and received official Government approval on 13th January 2023. Although the LEP will rebrand the intention is to implement the agreed Integration Plan.

The proposals detailed in the Integration Plan included:

- A greater emphasis on private sector representation and strategic leadership.
- Amendments to the Combined Authority's governance and policy-making framework, including the development of current advisory groups and creation of new strategic advisory groups to allow greater strategic leadership from the local private sector.
- The development of a new brand and identity from the Tees Valley LEP to the Tees Valley Business Board.

Progress on the development of the Business Board and implementation of the proposals in the Integration Plan are listed below:

- Identity: The LEP has re-branded and is now known as the Tees Valley Business Board.



- Terms of Reference: Terms of Reference have been developed for the Tees Valley Business Board and are attached in Appendix 1.
- Mandate: A Business Board Mandate has been developed which sets out high level ways of working as described in the Implementation Plan.
- Business Board Recruitment: The recruitment campaign for Business Board members was launched 20th April 2023. Recruitment of Business Board members will conclude on 22nd September 2023, subject to Cabinet agreement. Membership is aligned, where possible, to the economic priorities outlined in the Combined Authority strategic documents.
- Membership: The term of office for all members of the Business Board is two years, extendable by one further term of two years, unless otherwise agreed by the Cabinet. The term of office for members will begin on the date of appointment.
- Strategic Advisory Groups: The Business Board will implement Strategic Advisory Groups. The groups will become subgroups of the Business Board and will report to the Business Board quarterly, not directly to TVCA. The Strategic Advisory Groups will be focused on growth and be outcome based. Each group will be led by an appointed member of the Business Board and membership of the groups will ensure true business engagement. The Strategic Advisory Groups are:
 - **Business & Trade**
 - To oversee economic growth and increased inward investment opportunities and conversion.
 - **Work (Business, Employment & Skills)**
 - To actively support the reduction of the gap between talent pipeline and employer need.
 - **Visit (Culture, Media & Sport)**
 - To enhance the Tees Valley cultural, creative and hospitality sectors and its destination marketing.
 - **Energy, Security and Net Zero**
 - To challenge and support the Tees Valley business community in its journey to Net Zero and becoming part of the energy security solution for the UK.
 - **Science, Innovation & Technology**
 - To drive engagement and leadership in science, innovation and technological development in the Tees Valley.
 - The above groups will be supported by the cross-cutting themes at the foundation of all Business Board activity:
 - Diversity & Inclusionand
 - Transport & Digital Infrastructure as a key enabler

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Levelling Up White Paper (2022) makes clear that it is the intention of government that LEPs integrate with Mayoral Combined Authorities where they exist. Relevant changes to reflect new ways of working were made to TVCA Constitution in October 2022, following Cabinet approval in October 2022.



RISK ASSESSMENT

LEP/Business Board Integration is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION

The former Local Enterprise Partnership Board were consulted throughout the development and implementation of the Integration Plan.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The Public Sector Equality Duty was considered in developing the Integration Plan. The former LEP achieved a gender balanced membership. The Business Board intends to be an inclusive and diverse board, representative of the business communities in Tees Valley. A member of the Business Board will be a dedicated Diversity Champion, a specific role for ensuring equality and diversity is at the heart of Combined Authority decision making.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

The Implementation of the Integration Plan was discussed and agreed by the former Local Enterprise Partnership Board.

Name of Contact Officer: Siobhan McArdle

Post Title: Business Board Chair

Email Address: siobhan.mcardle@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk