



## AGENDA ITEM 4

### REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

### 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 not covered in other reports to this meeting.

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

##### DETAIL

##### INDEPENDENT REVIEW

1. On 7 June, it was announced that Angie Ridgwell, Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council had been appointed to lead a review into Teesworks following allegations about the organisation being made by the press and in the Commons. The investigation commenced at the beginning of June, with the panel reviewing TVCA's oversight of STDC and the Teesworks Joint Venture, including consideration of specific allegations made in relation to the Joint Venture, of corruption, illegality and wrongdoing. It is also looking at governance and financial management, reflecting the Government's existing approach to external assurance reviews.
2. In total we have provided more than 700 documents to the panel and have answered more than 185 questions. At this stage, we do not have a publication date for the independent review panel's report.

##### TEESSIDE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

3. Teesside Airport commenced its Turn of Year 2024 campaign on 26<sup>th</sup> December. This is a key time of year within the industry to promote holidays and flights to encourage early bookings. The campaign tactics include digital marketing as well as traditional media including radio, billboards and door drops. The campaign will run to the end of



March. The airport has also agreed partnerships with local travel agents that will guarantee joint promotion throughout the region of the airport summer 2024 offer.

## **BUSINESS SOLUTIONS**

4. UKSPF Supporting Local Business was launched prior to Christmas with an information event led by the Business Board held on 10<sup>th</sup> January. This event was aimed at all businesses and support organisations that were interested in applying to the open call opportunity to work with TVCA to develop a new Business Support offer to Tees Valley businesses. The open call launched £5.5m available to support all activity to help businesses start-up, grow and thrive. The event was well attended by over 150 people. Applicants were encouraged to propose new solutions to delivering business support.
5. This UKSPF call will close on 31<sup>st</sup> January, funding awards will be concluded during March and delivery will commence as soon as possible after March for a period to March 2025.
6. TVCA officers are working with the Department of Work and Pensions to shape the new Universal Support programme that will be commissioned by TVCA as the lead authority. This programme will provide personalised support to those who are disabled, have health conditions and those who have complex barriers to accessing work.

## **NET ZERO**

7. The Tees Valley's Innovation Cluster Coordinator is now in post and is delivering TVCA's Launchpad Cluster Management programme as part of our Launchpad Pilot, in partnership with Innovate UK. Launchpad Cluster Management will bring innovative companies and supporting institutions together to develop technologies that help to decarbonise Tees Valley and wider UK industry.
8. TVCA and its local authority partners are developing a Local Area Energy Pathway for the region, which will look at the Tees Valley's future energy needs. This will tackle infrastructure and constraints, supply and demand, domestic energy efficiency, as propose an indicative pipeline of investible green energy and low carbon projects.

## **SCREEN INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT**

9. The first film to have been supported through the North East Production Fund will premier at The Showcase Cinema in Stockton-on-Tees on 24 January 2023. Jackdaw is the first feature film from Hartlepool-based Jamie Childs whose previous credits include directing The Sandman for Netflix, His Dark Materials for BBC and Willow for



Disney.

10. Jackdaw is an action-thriller, starring Oliver Jackson-Cohen, Jenna Coleman and Rory McCann. It follows the story of Jack Daeson, a fictional former motocross champion and army veteran, who returns home to care for his brother after their mother drives. The film was shot on location across Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland and used the Northern Studios as a production base.
11. The UK premier will bring cast and crew back to the region with public screenings running alongside – tickets for which have sold out three times with additional screens being added. 250 cinemas nationwide will also show the film with a major streaming platform confirmed to be hosting the film later in the year.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no financial implications to this report.

#### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no legal implications to this report.

#### RISK ASSESSMENT

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

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