

AGENDA ITEM 5

REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

29TH SEPTEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

SUMMARY

This report details a general update on the key activities of the Combined Authority since the last Cabinet meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet note this update.

DETAIL

Establishment of the South Tees Development Corporation

1. The South Tees Development Corporation was formally established on 1st August and launched by a visit from the Prime Minister, Northern Powerhouse Minister and BEIS Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, on 23rd August. It is the first Mayoral Development Corporation outside of Greater London and represents significant opportunity for investment, regeneration and job creation.
2. The South Tees Development Corporation Board, chaired by the Tees Valley Mayor, held its first meeting on 24th August. The Development Corporation is currently developing its master plan for the 4,500 acre site, which will be launched in October for public consultation.

Routes to Work

3. The Combined Authority was successful in securing government funding for a £7.5m Routes to Work Scheme, through a national allocation available only to Mayoral authorities, with the Tees Valley securing the largest award. The scheme will support up to 2,500 people into employment, by addressing the most complex barriers, and mobilising local networks of specialist support.
4. The scheme will draw on a wide range of services to meet the particular needs of individual clients. It will be delivered in partnership with the five local authorities and

their partners from the voluntary and community sector, taking a multi-agency approach based within local communities. Employers will also play an important role in ensuring provision of volunteer and work experience to provide routes to work for those furthest away from the labour market.

Adult Education Budget devolution

5. Following delays created by the general election period, the Department of Education has now confirmed that there is insufficient parliamentary time for the Orders which devolve responsibility for adult education to Mayoral Combined Authorities in 2018. We are in discussion with the Department to establish an alternative arrangement, for example through delegated powers, for a transition to devolution in 2019.

Apprenticeships

6. In August 2016, as part of the devolution agreement the Combined Authority received the Department of Education's Apprenticeship Grant for Employer's funding. The devolved programme closed on 31st August 2017, with 940 businesses requesting support. 1055 new apprenticeship opportunities have now been approved for funding. In July 2017 cabinet agreed a new programme of support for businesses in our priority sectors and very small businesses. In order to fully understand the impact of these programmes further evaluation will be undertaken and reported back to cabinet in the spring once data is available.

Homes and Communities

7. Work continues in partnership with the Local Authorities on preparing a joint Housing Investment and Delivery Plan with the Homes and Communities Agency. The plan is identifying the interventions, funding and investment requirements to bring forward housing sites across the Tees Valley. In parallel work continues in preparing bids for the £2.3bn Housing Infrastructure Fund. In total the infrastructure bid equates to approximately £290m for Tees Valley, to be submitted 28 September 2017.

Tees Valley Road Network

8. Tees Valley Combined Authority undertook a public consultation on the plans for better transport connections across the area, to provide businesses and residents with a high quality road network that is safe, less congested and more reliable. The consultation closed on 1st September and the Combined Authority received over 400 responses. The responses will be analysed, published and considered by the Tees Valley Transport Committee.

Heathrow Logistics Hub

9. The Combined Authority, working with a wide range of industrial partners, has proposed the creation of a Logistics Hub, to support the delivery of the expansion of Heathrow Airport. The Tees Valley Mayor met with the CEO of Heathrow Airport, to discuss this opportunity, and Heathrow's proposal to re-establish flights to Durham Tees Valley Airport as part of their future expansion plans.

Darlington 2025

10. The Combined Authority, Darlington Council and Virgin Trains have established an exhibition at Darlington Station, to inform and engage the public on the masterplan for the station, and our plans to accommodate HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail services. The plans also demonstrate how improvements can be made to services across the Tees Valley for both passengers and freight.

Culture

11. The Tees Valley Combined Authority, along with partners, continues to work towards the bid for City of Culture 2025. A delegation of members and officers from across Tees Valley met members of the bid and delivery team for Hull, and the Leader of Hull City Council, to learn more about their talk through bidding and delivery of the City of Culture year.
12. A number of discussions are ongoing with partners regarding development of a number of culture and tourism projects including heritage and attraction development, events and festivals and the river Tees.

Tees Valley Business Summit

13. The Tees Valley Business Summit was held in July, attracting over 850 delegates and over 100 exhibitors. The Summit also included a Tees Engineering Network event. It was the biggest summit to date and plans are already underway to ensure it builds on the success for next year.

Offshore Decommissioning

14. Between the 5th–8th September Tees Valley Combined Authority and partners, alongside 900 other companies and organisations from across Europe, exhibited at the Offshore Europe 2017 event in Aberdeen. It was estimated that some 11,000+ industrial professionals attended the four day event covering sector interests in areas of decommissioning, innovative supply chains, regulatory alignment, single source solutions, plus a host of other sector technology and service providers. Our team's focus was on opportunities in attracting offshore decommissioning, establishing commercial opportunities to be followed up over the coming weeks.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no financial implications to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no legal implications to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

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