

AGENDA ITEM 5

REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

21 DECEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

For information and discussion.

DETAIL

UK Industrial Strategy Launched 22nd November

1. The Government has now launched its Industrial Strategy White Paper, Building a Britain fit for the Future. Tees Valley was given high profile in the document, with a case study included for the South Tees Development Corporation as an example of national best practice. The strategy also includes a commitment to work with Tees Valley to develop a further devolution deal.
2. The Government announced that Local Enterprise Partnerships, and Combined Authorities where they exist, will be asked to bring forward local Industrial Strategies, with the first to be developed by March 2019. Given the progress made in the Tees Valley through the Strategic Economic Plan, we will look to bring forward a Local Industrial Strategy as part of an early phase of that national programme.

Darlington 2025

3. On 8th December, the Mayor hosted a visit from the Secretary of State for Transport. As part of the visit, we presented our proposals for a significant upgrade of Darlington station, to unlock improved services on HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail, local services and freight. The Secretary of State expressed his support in principle for this initiative, and acknowledged the necessity for investment in the station. Further discussions will continue with Network Rail and other partners, and with further meetings between the

Mayor and Secretary of State, with a view to moving the project to the next stage of development.

Railway Heritage Development

4. Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) status has been awarded to the Stockton and Darlington Railway site by Historic England (one of eight awards in England). The Railway Heritage Steering Group (made up of a number of key partners) is bringing forward an ambitious programme to conserve and develop the Stockton and Darlington Railway. This announcement will support research and conservation of the heritage assets as part of the larger development project and is a great platform from which to develop the rest of the project.
5. DCMS has also announced the list of eleven projects put forward to secure four possible capital legacy funding awards from the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund. Tees Valley has submitted an application for almost £4million to secure the first stage of the railway heritage project.

Annual Conversation

6. Each year, all Local Enterprise Partnerships are required to take part in a formal conversation with Government officials to review the years' performance, specifically relating to the Local Growth Fund, and to assure our adherence to the agreed Assurance process.
7. The Tees Valley Annual Conversation took place on 4th December, led by Paul Booth as LEP Chair. Government officials are particularly focused on good governance of decision-making, where Tees Valley is recognised as demonstrating good practice, and delivery of the investment pipeline. The discussion was positive, with acknowledgement of the additional capacity and capabilities we now have in place to accelerate programme delivery. The Combined Authority is forecast to spend 100% more Local Growth Fund in 2017/18 than 2016/17; leaving a balance of £36million. We have a strong pipeline and if all projects were to be approved in 2018/19 this would result in an over-programming of the Fund in 2018/19.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no financial implications to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no legal implications to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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



TEES VALLEY
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

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