

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**

### **REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET**

**5 FEBRUARY 2018**

### **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**

###### **Boulby Redundancies**

1. The SSI Task Force has recently written to Greg Clark, Secretary of State, to ask for remaining SSI training and job support funds to also be made available to the 230 Boulby (ICL Group) workers that are currently at risk of redundancy. Additionally, they have requested that the flexibilities that were available to DWP and the colleges around training, including removing the 16 hour rule and the ability to fund part qualifications, be made available to address the Boulby workers. Recognising that the company is an international ongoing concern, the Task Force has asked for the Chair (Amanda Skelton) be given Government backing to negotiate with the company to secure their commitment to provide funds to support training.
2. Amanda Skelton, Linda Edworthy and Simon Clarke MP met with Andrew Griffiths, Under Secretary of State, on Monday, 22 January to discuss this request and an outcome from that meeting is expected shortly.

###### **Carillion**

3. Along with LEPs across the country, the Combined Authority has been asked to advise on the local impact of the collapse of Carillion, the major construction and facilities management firm. National government has been coordinating steps to secure continuity for large scale construction projects. Our local council partners do

not have a significant relationship with Carillion, and at this stage no local firms have sought help as a result of supply chain links. Business Compass continues to be available to respond to any local firms affected, as the supply chain impact becomes clearer.

4. Our primary concern has been the impact on apprentices and trainees, including 124 people at Carillion's Middlesbrough Training Centre. Efforts to find suitable alternative places are being led by the Construction Industry Training Board, with our support and close liaison with local colleges and other providers.

### **Freeport Status**

5. The Mayor has secured the support of 50 local businesses for a proposal to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to explore the benefits of Freeport status in enhancing trade, investment and local growth, using the Tees as a national case study. Freeports exist around the world, and provide special freedoms to trade, and exemptions from certain operational, regulatory and customs requirements.

### **Mary Ney LEP Review**

6. Following the recently published "Review of Local Enterprise Partnership Governance and Transparency", led by Mary Ney, Non-Executive Director, DCLG Board, Cabinet agreed that the Combined Authority would implement further procedural improvements to ensure we stay at the forefront of best practice. As a statutory Combined Authority, the Tees Valley meets or exceeds the requirements set out in the report, but further improvements have been made to the Whistleblowing/Confidential Complaints procedure. The government has now published further guidelines in response to the Ney Review, which are expected to be met by all Local Enterprise Partnerships. We are reviewing our guidelines and forms to ensure we continue to meet or exceed best practice.

### **Durham Tees Valley Airport**

7. The Mayor and Cabinet members have proposed a special meeting to review progress on discussions about the future of Durham Tees Valley Airport. This is now being organised, as a closed session to allow members to discuss commercially confidential matters.

### **Senior Staff**

8. Our new Head of Communication and Marketing, Neal Smith, has now started work. Neal previously led the communication function for Virgin East Coast, and previous East Coast franchise holders. An experienced communications professional, Neal has also worked for the Association of North East Councils. Neal will lead the development and delivery of our Communication and Marketing Strategy, with an emphasis on active communication and engagement with our partners, investors and the wider public. The role is a joint appointment with the South Tees Development Corporation.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9. There are no financial implications to this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. There are no legal implications to this report.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

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