

AGENDA ITEM 13

REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

1 JUNE 2018

REPORT OF STRATEGY DIRECTOR

DIGITAL SECTOR ACTION PLAN

SUMMARY

At the December 2017 Cabinet Meeting it was agreed that Cabinet would be provided with each of the Sector Action Plans. The attached document contains the second completed Action Plan, which is for the Digital Sector and also contains a foreword by the Sector Champion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet:

- i. Approve the findings of the Digital Sector Action Plan.
- ii. Approve the submission of an Expression of Interest for the 5G Urban Connected Communities project by 12 June with agreement of an Expression of Interest to be delegated to the Mayor, the portfolio lead and the MD.

DETAIL

1. At the December 2017 Cabinet Meeting, the overview document for the 7 Sector Action Plans¹ was discussed. Although this document provided clear strategic direction across the 7 priority sectors and 1 cross cutting sector, it was agreed that Cabinet would be provided with each of the Sector Action Plans.
2. The attached document (Appendix A) contains the second completed Sector Action Plan, which is for the Digital Sector and also contains a foreword by the Acting Sector Champion, Lynsey Robinson of Digital City, as well as a list of indicative activities.

¹ Advanced Manufacturing, Process, chemicals and energy, Logistics, Health and Biologics, Digital and Creative, Culture and Leisure and Business and Professional Services. and cross cutting plan for the circular economy.

3. All existing indicative activities, across each of the 7 Sector Action Plans have already been collated and presented to Cabinet in the Sector Action Plan Overview Document in December 2017. Of these, 7 interventions were shortlisted for immediate action and are currently subject to due diligence in line with the Assurance Framework. Going forward, it is anticipated that the subsequent roll out of the remaining 5 Sector Action Plans and Circular Economy Cross Cutting Theme Plan will augment the existing project pipeline.
4. The remaining Sector Action Plans will be submitted on a rolling basis across the scheduled Cabinet Meetings in 2018.
5. As part of the work to develop the Digital Sector Action Plan, the Combined Authority and Teesside University is developing proposals for a joint approach to the delivery of a Digital Strategy for Tees Valley, including the Digital City activities. These proposals will be brought to Cabinet for detailed consideration.

5G Urban Connected Communities Pilot

6. An opportunity to be considered as the next 5G urban pilot area has been issued by the Department for Culture Media and Sports (DCMS) with a deadline of expressions of interest of 12th June. This opportunity is open to urban areas with a population of over 500,000 which includes 12-15 areas across the UK. However, DCMS has indicated that they will be prioritising combined authority and devolved administration areas.
7. The pilot would unlock £50-100m of funds with significant involvement from the private sector and would need to focus on the opportunities that 5G would unlock across a number of themes, potentially including: industrial digitisation, transport, health, and tourism and culture. The Expression of Interest will not commit the Combined Authority to any funding. Workshops are being held with DCMS in May and they will work with areas over the summer to work towards one area being chosen for the pilot. A similar opportunity for rural areas will be launched later in the summer and an opportunity for a smaller scale pilot is also anticipated later in the year.
8. It would be beneficial to submit an Expression of Interest in this urban pilot opportunity to ensure that we also are considered for other opportunities that arise.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. This is a research report and consequently there are no direct financial implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. This is a research report and consequently there are no direct legal or procurement implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. This is a research report with no direct operational risks attached.
12. This research report is categorised as low risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

CONSULTATION

13. This report has been subject to an extensive consultation exercise with both the public and private sectors.

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