

## **AGENDA ITEM 6**

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

**27 JULY 2018**

### **REPORT OF THE INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR**

#### **INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

##### **SUMMARY**

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

##### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

For information.

##### **DETAIL**

##### **Darlington Northern Link Road**

1. Work is continuing to progress towards the development of a new strategic highway linking the A66 and the A1, north of Darlington.
2. At December's Cabinet meeting members endorsed plans for the construction of a road connecting Junction 59 of the A1 to the A66 Great Burdon Roundabout as the preferred option for scheme.
3. Discussions are continuing with Department for Transport about the development of a Business Case for the project and the Tees Valley Combined Authority has recently provided an update on the scheme's progress to them. We are in the process of exploring the potential for the Department of Transport to make a financial contribution towards the development of this business case with confirmation expected this Autumn. Work on the project continues using the local resources identified by the Combined Authority at December's Cabinet Meeting.

##### **Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)**

4. The Youth Employment Initiative is a government scheme which aims to support young people aged 15-29 who are unemployed and/or not in education, employment or training
5. The Department of Work and Pension has requested existing providers to submit growth bids for an extension in time and funding of the programme. The two providers that this affects are New College Durham and Hartlepool Council. Both are consortium programmes that work with a range of partners to assist people aged up to 29 to move towards employment and gain work. The current programme would end in July if no extension was enabled. Both providers have submitted growth bids.
6. In Oct 2016 Cabinet agreed £2.06m from the Investment Fund would be allocated to extending the YEI programme. This funding was not required at the time and therefore is now being allocated to provide the match funding required for each growth bid. Hartlepool have requested £1,447,000 and New College Durham £300,000. The remaining £313 000 will be re-allocated to the single pot.

#### **Readiness conditions for devolution of Adult Education Budget**

7. The Department of Education have now confirmed that the Combined Authority has a robust plan in place to be ready for devolution of the Adult Education Budget in 2019.
8. This was the result of a significant assessment process where a Department of Education panel assessed a detailed submission. The feedback was extremely positive with the only recommendation that we ensure an equality policy is developed as part of the programme implementation.

#### **New Tees Crossing**

9. Work is continuing on the development of a new strategic road crossing for the Tees designed to reduce congestion and journey times on the A19 by providing additional road capacity of up to 72,000 vehicles per day and allow continued traffic flow in the event of an incident on the A19 or A66.
10. December's Cabinet endorsed the Tees Viaduct Option, adjacent to the A19 Flyover, as the preferred site for the crossing.
11. We are continuing to work with the Department for Transport to develop a Business Case for the project and have recently formally updated them on the scheme's progress. We are exploring the potential for the Department of Transport to also make a financial contribution towards the development of this business case with confirmation expected this Autumn. Work on the project continues using the local resources as agreed by Cabinet in December.

#### **Middlesbrough District Energy Network**

12. Work is progressing on the creation of a District Energy Network, designed to provide major buildings in Middlesbrough with a low carbon energy source, generated by the burning non-recyclable rubbish.
13. We have reached an outline agreement with South Tees NHS Trust that will see it being both the most significant offtaker (taking more than half of all output), and potentially an equity investor. The details of this will be agreed in the next few weeks, and discussions with Teesside University and MBC about offtake contracts run in parallel.
14. When this agreement is reached a commercialisation phase will commence, prior to procurement of a detailed design and the construction and operation of the system.

#### **City Of Culture 2025 Bid Preparation**

15. The City of Culture bidding process and designation has the potential to be a vehicle for transformational change in the Tees Valley. It is an opportunity for our communities to gain richer, more nourishing life experiences and to connect with their place in inspiring new ways; for our businesses to champion their skills through new platforms and attract new talent to the area; and for our visitors to enjoy a deeper understanding of the strengths, talents and contributions that define the Tees Valley.
16. Several strategic discussions and workshops have already taken place, establishing the commitment and support of the Local Authorities, key stakeholders represented through the Culture Thematic Group, and leaders in the cultural sector.
17. We are now opening this conversation up to our communities encouraging them to lead our thinking around the purpose, nature and power of our City of Culture journey.
18. The following workshops have taken place so far to help develop the City of Culture bid:
  - Workshops with Culture Leads and the Culture Officers group.
  - Several workshops with the Culture sector who will help us deliver the community engagement.
  - A visit to Stoke-on-Trent on 14 June by seven members of our culture leads and Thematic Group to learn from the Culture Group that led the bid (unsuccessful) for Stoke-on-Trent to be City of Culture in 2021.
  - 21 June – Bloomberg Harvard Leadership Initiative (involving representatives from business, education and communities, developing a shared narrative around City of Culture)
19. An engagement programme will be delivered over 18 - 24 months, with each stage of the process informing the next. It places culture at its heart - commissioning creative talents to produce engagements which are welcoming, revealing, enjoyable and inspiring - and seeks to engage thousands of people from across the Tees Valley, reaching into every community, every school, and connecting with our workforce. This work will begin with pilot engagement events over summer 2018 testing the

ways of stimulating conversations and responses before the broader engagement begins.

20. The bid will be put in in April 2021, shortlisting of places takes place in September 2021, and the winner will be announced in December 2021.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

21. There are no financial implications to this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

22. There are no legal implications to this report.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

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