

AGENDA ITEM 4

REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

28TH SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE TEES VALLEY MAYOR

TEES VALLEY MAYOR'S UPDATE

SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet notes the report.

DETAIL

Large Local Major Schemes – New Tees Crossing and East – West Connectivity (Darlington Northern Bypass)

1. Development of the business cases for both the New Tees Crossing and Darlington Northern Link Road continues, with a view to submitting the schemes for inclusion in Department for Transport's Road Investment Strategy 2 process, which commences in Q2 2019.
2. Considerable further work has been undertaken to develop cost effective proposals for both schemes, and recent engagement with Department for Transport has been positive. A further meeting between the Mayor and the Transport Secretary's Special Adviser will take place in September, and a further meeting between TVCA and DfT officials in October to discuss progress.

TransPennine Express extension into Redcar Central and Saltburn rail stations

3. The Mayor and Combined Authority officials are working with TransPennine Express and Transport for the North/Rail North Partnership to explore a proposal to extend the existing TPE service which currently terminates at Middlesbrough, onto Redcar and Saltburn. This

would deliver much enhanced connectivity for the eastern part of the Tees Valley and provide a strategic rail link for one of the economic centres (Redcar), as defined in TfN's Strategic Transport Plan, which currently lacks one.

4. TPE has worked up a proposal in detail and this has now also being assessed by officers within TfN and the Rail North Partnership. There is now tri-partite agreement that this is a strong and beneficial scheme following the Mayor's intervention at a Rail North Partnership Board meeting in Leeds on 23 August.
5. Work continues to explore a potential franchise change in December 2019.

Middlesbrough District Energy Network

6. Following Cabinet approval in November 2017 to develop this scheme further, work has been ongoing to secure the commitment of the project's key stakeholders, including the participation of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Teesside University and Middlesbrough Borough Council as energy offtakers from the network.
7. Work is now progressing to put in place an agreement between TVCA and those key partners to jointly develop and deliver the project, and this is expected to be in place by the end of September. This will allow the further development of our procurement strategy and help to crystallise the timetable for the delivery of the project.
8. The next stage will be to procure and appoint external advisers to help us to take the project forward, to produce and agree detailed project governance arrangements and to confirm the planned timescales for delivery of the project. This phase of work will be completed by early January 2019. The intention is then to work intensively with our advisers to get ready to commence the formal process to procure a provider to design, build, operate and maintain the system in September 2019.
9. This project can make a significant contribution to both the Strategic Economic Plan and the Low Carbon Industrial Strategy and will help to develop our circular economy. It will also enhance Tees Valley's reputation for innovation and is considered by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to be a potential flagship project nationally, particularly through its public sector partnering approach.

Tees Valley Ambassadors

10. We are preparing to launch a new Tees Valley Ambassadors scheme later this year. This is designed to promote Tees Valley and the benefits of investing, living, working in or visiting the region. Ambassadors will be invited to join the scheme and help us to advocate and Talk up Tees Valley, amplifying positive messages about the region, particularly to investors, decision-makers and alumni based outside of the region. In turn, we will provide access to an Ambassadors' portal which will provide information and brand collateral about the region, regular updates on activities and events within the region, and a point of contact for officers to assist with inquiries.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no financial implications to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no legal implications to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

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