

**AGENDA ITEM 5****REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY  
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****31 JANUARY 2019****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****MIDDLESBROUGH DISTRICT ENERGY NETWORK**

1. Since the last progress report in September, work has been continuing on this project with the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Teesside University and Middlesbrough Borough Council as our key partners in the proposed network. We've also been working with other public sector organisations with premises in and around the proposed network to ascertain if they want to be involved. This will help to:
  - strengthen the core proposition of the project;
  - further enhance commercial viability;
  - enable more organisations to make financial savings;
  - contribute to Carbon saving targets, and
  - meet our Strategic Economic Plan aspiration to be at the forefront of delivering innovative projects that contribute to the circular economy.
2. We are in the process of appointing external advisors to work closely with the Combined Authority to help develop the technical, legal and financial aspects of the project, to ensure that the project is commercially viable, meets the heat and energy needs of our key partners and allows for potential future expansion. This process will continue into the first quarter of 2019 and this support will help us to refine the business case and allow the Combined Authority and Partners to make an investment decision in the last quarter of the year.
3. A more detailed project plan for all phases of the scheme will be established during the pre-procurement phase of the project but the objective remains to procure a design,

build, operate and maintain contractor and seek to deliver phase 1 of the scheme, which is self-contained within the James Cook University Hospital site, by June 2021.

4. Whilst it is important that we get the first phases of the main project underway to realise the benefits for our key partners, we also recognise that there is a significant amount of new development being planned in and around the proposed network in Middlesbrough Town Centre and so we are also looking to secure funding from the Government's Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) to begin feasibility work to establish where, how and when the network could be expanded – in effect a fourth phase of the project.

### **ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET (AEB)**

5. The Combined Authority is due to receive final confirmation of the indicative £30.5m devolved Adult Education Budget for 2019/20, from the Department for Education by the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.
6. The commissioning process for the delivery of Adult Skills provision from the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 was launched on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018. All providers who are seeking to secure a funding award to deliver adult skills to Tees Valley residents from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 are required to submit a Delivery Plan to the Combined Authority by 12 noon on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019.
7. A dedicated AEB portal linked to the Combined Authority website has been established to support the commissioning process, which will allow all prospective provider Delivery Plans and their supporting documentation to be received on-line.
8. Two events were held in December 2018, to support prospective providers in preparing for the submission of their Delivery Plan. These events were well attended with over 100 providers attending over the two days.

### **APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYERS GRANT**

9. In November, Cabinet agreed changes to the current Apprenticeship Support for Employers, to encourage businesses to create more apprenticeship opportunities. The scheme will continue assisting priority and high growth sector businesses and provide incentives to retain apprentices to progress onto higher level apprenticeships. The new Apprenticeship Support for Employers Grant went live on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
10. An event to launch the new grant was held at Hartlepool College of Further Education on the 14<sup>th</sup> December. 55 employers and representative bodies attended to receive the details of the grant offer and to debate how we can all do more to increase apprenticeship opportunities in Tees Valley.
11. Regular monitoring will be undertaken regarding the uptake of the grant, funding committed, the relevant business sectors response and the level of apprenticeships being created. Further updates and impact achieved will be presented to cabinet as required.

### **RAILWAY HERITAGE**

12. A number of developments have recently taken place in relation to Railway Heritage, with the Combined Authority leading on the Railway Heritage Programme.

13. Work on the masterplan for the Railway Heritage Quarter, in Darlington, is being completed by Bauman Lyons, with a planned completion date of May 2019. The masterplan work will create a clear vision and delivery plan for this major visitor attraction, telling the story of the Stockton and Darlington Railway and associated rail heritage.
14. Work has also commenced on the Stockton and Darlington Railway Interpretation Plan. TGAC have been commissioned to create two plans, the first telling key stories of the Stockton and Darlington Railway and the second for the Railway Heritage Quarter at the North Road site. This is due to be completed in April 2019.

### **RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP 2021**

15. An announcement on whether the Tees Valley has been successful in the bid to host games or a team, as part of the Rugby League World Cup 2021, will be made on 29<sup>th</sup> January. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

### **INVEST TEES VALLEY**

16. The Invest Tees Valley brand has been updated to further align it with our corporate communications, including the Combined Authority and Tees Valley Mayoral brands. The refreshed brand is designed to appeal to potential investors and to support the work of the Combined Authority's Business Investment Team.
17. Marketing materials, including brochures, stationery, email signature strips and banners have been produced in the new style. Copy and images from our Talking Up Tees Valley marketing campaign, which was produced collaboratively with all five Local Authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnership, have been applied to the materials as part of our roll out of consistent messaging and narrative about the region. A new Invest in Tees Valley website will be launched in early 2019 to provide information about the region and opportunities and reasons to invest within Tees Valley.

### **PR AWARDS**

18. The launch of Enjoy Tees Valley has won two awards at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations' North East PRide Awards. The campaign won Gold in the Best Low Budget category and Silver for Best Consumer Relations. It involved the Combined Authority's Communications & Marketing and Tourism teams working collaboratively with all five Local Authorities' Communications teams. The judges commented that the campaign demonstrated a "clear focus and a collaborative spirit, involving a whole range of stakeholders and working with a minimal budget and incredibly short timescales. The result was phenomenal – including great press coverage and engagement with key target audiences and using strong influencing skills with journalists".

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

19. There are no financial implications to this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

20. There are no legal implications to this report.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

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