

AGENDA ITEM 5**REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****26 JULY 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**TEES VALLEY CAREERS.COM**

1. Tees Valley has been announced by the Careers and Enterprise Company as one of the successful bids to expand the Careers Hub. Tees Valley has been one of twenty national Careers and Enterprise Hubs since October 2018 and consists of 35 schools in the Tees Valley. The Tees Valley Careers Hub will now include a further 25 schools and colleges – with the vision to cover all 11-18 learning establishments in Tees Valley.
2. The launch of the Hub extension took place on 9 July at Middlesbrough Football Club where existing Hub schools and colleges showcased their successes with new Hub learning providers, had the opportunity to network and to share best practice.

TEES VALLEY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

3. The Combined Authority, in partnership with Teesside University, has submitted an application to the European Social Fund (ESF) for a £3.1m project. This is made up of an ESF request of £1.8m, match from TVCA of £1m and £300k from Teesside University.
4. The project will:
 - Identify requirements within Tees Valley SMEs which will address the projected vacancy gap across the region over the next ten years and ensure that, where possible, Tees Valley residents can benefit;
 - Inform and shape the development of curricula ensuring a better fit with the emerging skills needs of SMEs across all priority and growth sectors; and

- Promote and assist Tees Valley SMEs to develop capabilities that improve their productivity and competitive position.
5. The project has an anticipated start date of September 2019, subject to approval of the funding application which is anticipated in August. The project will engage with 800 SMEs and an estimated 1,080 individuals will be supported through the project.

CULTURE AND TOURISM UPDATE

6. We are in the process of developing our Culture strategy with partners. It will set out the core principles and broad strategic priorities for activity and investment across Tees Valley and support our City of Culture bid development. We will be aiming to engage many people across Tees Valley in developing the ideas that underpin our bid.
7. A new film 48 hours in Tees Valley has been produced. Please look for it on Enjoy Tees Valley .com.
9. Users of the Enjoy Tees Valley website have increased by over 600%, comparing May 2019 to May 2018.

NEW TEES CROSSING – CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

10. Providing a new Tees Crossing is one of the main transport priorities for the Tees Valley. It is seen as essential to facilitate growth and is supported and endorsed by Transport for the North. The preferred capacity enhancement scheme would see a new two-lane bridge built parallel to the existing A19 viaduct to carry traffic travelling northbound and the existing structure widened to allow for an extra lane of southbound traffic.
11. In a recent public consultation on the proposal, over 300 responses were received and almost 5,000 people viewed the proposal online. Results show over 84% of consultees support the need for additional road capacity over the River Tees. Furthermore over 70% of respondents favoured the preferred capacity enhancement scheme. Work is now underway to finalise the business case and discussions are ongoing with Government to secure the funding required to deliver the scheme.

STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY (S&DR) HERITAGE PROGRAMME

12. The Railway Heritage Programme is a partnership between the Combined Authority, Stockton Borough Council, Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council.
13. The Programme continues to make great progress with the Railway Heritage Quarter Masterplan and Interpretation Plan due in its first full draft by the end of June 2019 and with sign off scheduled by end August 2019. The Interpretation Plan which seeks to develop the 'grand narrative' around the whole 26 miles of the S&DR line is also in its final draft and will be signed off in July by the Railway Heritage Board. Alongside the grand narrative, an Access Audit is underway to determine possible routes of 26 mile walking and cycling route by 2025 and beyond, this work is expected to be complete by October 2019.

14. The Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage Programme Delivery Plan is also being refreshed with Historic England, looking at governance, resources and timescales in particular.

MIDDLESBROUGH STATION

15. The Combined Authority is continuing to work in collaboration with Middlesbrough Council (MBC), the Department for Transport (DfT), Transport for the North (TfN), Network Rail (NR) and Trans-Pennine Express (TPE) to develop and progress the series of proposed projects at Middlesbrough Station.
16. The first stage of feasibility work looking to address the capacity constraints at the station has been completed in accordance with the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline (RNEP) process. TVCA and MBC are now working with DfT and NR to move this forward to the next stage of the process.
17. Work is also progressing with TPE and NR to seek improvements to passenger facilities and refurbish the dilapidated station undercroft. These projects are linked to the increased rail services over coming years, the potential of a new third platform being built to address the capacity constraints and an expected growth in passenger numbers using the station.

DARLINGTON STATION

18. Progress continues to be made on Darlington Station with the production of a Strategic Case clearly demonstrating the requirement for intervention from the Department for Transport (DfT). This will be incorporated in to an Outline Business Case (OBC) for Phase 1 of the scheme by the end of December 2019. The project team is working closely with Network Rail to agree how Network Rail needs to contribute to the OBC. A multi-disciplinary technical advisory team is in the process of being procured to lead design work for the OBC process.
19. A Phase 1 Feasibility Design for the Station East side has now been completed and was presented to the Darlington Station Programme Board in June 2019. It was very well received by representatives of each of the key stakeholders in the project.
20. Network Rail has now also completed a Darlington Station Capacity Analysis report which has identified a number of interventions required in order to deliver improved rail connectivity across Tees Valley and beyond. Network Rail is to provide broad indication of costs of the intervention.

MIDDLESBROUGH DISTRICT ENERGY NETWORK

21. The Outline Business Case (OBC) for the project was previously considered by the Combined Authority Cabinet and an in-principle commitment given that the Combined Authority would use its borrowing powers and invest up to £40m in the project subject to a commercially viable Full Business Case.
22. Subsequently, expert legal, technical and financial advisers have been appointed and work has continued on the development of the Middlesbrough District Energy Network (MDEN) project, which will provide greener heat and power to a number of sites across the town centre, including the James Cook University Hospital and a number of

University and Council buildings in the town centre in the first phase, followed by phases of expansion to other premises.

23. Over recent weeks, significant work has been done on refining and developing the project, including additional work on the network design and routing, how buildings can be connected and negotiating the commercial terms with those who will be supplying and off-taking heat or power from the network. All of this is being used to inform the project's Full Business Case. A more detailed report on this exciting and innovative project is expected to be provided for the next Cabinet meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

24. There are no financial implications to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

25. There are no legal implications to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

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