

**AGENDA ITEM 5****REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY  
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****25 OCTOBER 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. Three Tees Valley applications were shortlisted and successful in the National Careers awards, these are:
  - SEND Champion of The Year – Catcote Academy, Hartlepool – Winners of this category.
  - Partnership of the Year – Carmel College, Darlington and Jacobs – Highly Commended (2<sup>nd</sup> place) in this category.
  - Careers Hub of the Year-TVCA - Commended (3<sup>rd</sup> place) in this category

**CONSTRUCTION TRAINING**

2. TVCA have been working with providers to respond to the national Construction Industry Training Board funding opportunity to set up "Onsite Experience Hubs" that will provide training linked to specific construction sites. Tees Valley is one of 20 LEP areas to be offered this opportunity. The initial closing date for applications was 11<sup>th</sup> Oct but this has since been extended to 25<sup>th</sup> November.

**ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET**

3. Adult Education Budget was successfully devolved on 1<sup>st</sup> August and first payments made to the 33 providers delivering Adult Education to Tees Valley residents. This marks an important first step in skills devolution and making the changes to the skills system required to ensure Tees Valley residents undertake and progress in learning relevant to the labour market.

## **APPRENTICESHIPS**

4. TVCA have been working with the National Apprenticeship Service and the Department of Education (DfE) to ensure that national policy changes reflect the needs of Tees Valley businesses and as a result have been requested to join a further conversation with Senior Leaders in DfE to develop these policies further.
5. TVCA won the Apprenticeship Organisation Award at the Tees Valley BME awards held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September. This was in recognition of the support we have given to businesses to create apprenticeships.

## **NORTHERN POWERHOUSE PARTNERSHIP (NPP)**

6. Brenda McLeish, LEP lead for Education, Employment and Skills has been requested to join the Northern Powerhouse Partnership Corporate Policy Board that will provide an opportunity to ensure Tees Valley is represented in developing the NPP policies.

## **NEW TEES CROSSING**

7. The final Outline Business Case for the A19 River Tees Crossing Capacity Enhancement Scheme has been submitted to Government. Discussions are on-going with Government to secure a funding commitment to deliver the scheme, with an anticipated timeframe for construction of 2023 – 2027.
8. The A19 Tees Viaduct is the key north-south crossing of the River Tees. This section of the A19 currently carries 112,000 vehicles per day – the parallel A1(M) carries only 43,000 at the point at which it crosses the River Tees, emphasising the importance of the route. The current crossing is a congestion pinch point on the A19 with only 55% of journeys classed as being “on time” by Highways England.
9. The Capacity Enhancement Scheme will 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. The scheme also provides a new ‘Portrack Relief Road’ to alleviate congestion on the local network and remove non-strategic traffic from the A19. In a public consultation 84% of consultees supported the need for additional capacity over the River Tees and 74% favoured the preferred Capacity Enhancement Scheme.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9. There are no financial implications to this report.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. There are no legal implications to this report.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

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