

**AGENDA ITEM 6****REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY  
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****FRIDAY MAY 29<sup>th</sup> 2020****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****RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

1. This is a difficult time for many individuals, families and local businesses in the Tees Valley and around the globe. The Mayor and Combined Authority would like to thank the key workers across our region for their efforts in keeping essential services running across the private, public and other sectors.
2. In our role as the lead regional agency for economic development, the Combined Authority is responding to the COVID-19 outbreak and disruption by analysing its potential economic impact; providing business support, signposting and advice; reporting business intelligence to government; and Economic Recovery Planning.
3. The full nature of the economic impacts resulting from the coronavirus pandemic and the associated containment measures that have been introduced across the world are yet to be fully understood. It is however expected that they will require a response of unprecedented scale and scope.
4. Building on the Combined Authority's existing business support role, the Combined Authority has established a 24/7 Business Support Helpline to act as a single point of contact for Tees Valley companies and individuals in relation to COVID-19 and the support available to them. To date almost 1500 enquiries have been received.
5. We have also launched the Buy Local Tees Valley website to connect local people with businesses and tradespeople that have remained open, or are operating differently, during the outbreak. Over 500 businesses are now registered.
6. Other activity involving the Combined Authority, working with our partners, includes:

- Surveying almost 1000 businesses to enable us to understand in detail the effects the pandemic has had and may continue to have on Tees Valley businesses and the short, medium and long-term support they need
  - Shortening payment terms from the normal 30-day process, to ensure companies in the private sector are paid as soon as possible. The Tees Valley Mayor has also strongly encouraged other public sector organisations to do the same.
  - Purchasing 100,000 bottles of hand sanitiser for distribution across the region. 70,000 bottles have already been distributed to care workers, schools, charities, community groups, social workers and other at-risk key workers with the help of our local authorities.
  - The Tees Valley Mayor has also publicly called on regional businesses to donate unused or excess personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline hospital and healthcare staff.
  - Daily contact with central government to influence and shape the national response.
7. As we move towards the recovery phase, the Combined Authority is now developing approaches to support recovery and longer-term resilience of the Tees Valley economy and working with our partners to develop a package of targeted measures to help businesses impacted by the pandemic to recover quickly, to be resilient to future shocks and to help them grow.

#### **SOUTH TEES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

8. On April 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 the South Tees Development Corporation was informed that it had been successful in its bid to bring land within the site into public ownership.
9. In April 2019, the Development Corporation launched compulsory purchase proceedings to acquire the former SSI steelworks and a further 112 acres of land.
10. Following a public inquiry into the compulsory purchase orders in February, the planning inspectorate formally granted the Development Corporation powers to be able to purchase all of this land and bring it under its control.

#### **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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