

AGENDA ITEM 5**REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****FRIDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 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**TEESSIDE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

1. Teesside International Airport is once again connected to one of the world's best airports after the announcement of a new daily connection to Heathrow – its first flights to the UK's biggest airport in more than a decade. The announcement of Eastern Airways' new service to the London airport, which is one of the busiest in the world, serving more than 80million people a year, comes just 18 months after he secured a landmark deal to save the airport from closure. The new Heathrow route means that local people in Tees Valley will be better connected to the capital than ever before, allowing them to fly into London for business or to connect with more than 180 locations in 84 countries across the world.

TEESWORKS

2. On 28th July our plan for jobs at the former Redcar steelworks site was launched– a plan that will see almost 400 jobs created and almost £400m worth of investment over the next 12 months. Over the next 12 months, 19 separate demolitions will take place and 18 individual contracts will go out for tender, creating 390 jobs, 39 of which will be for apprentices. In total, 775 jobs will be created through these investments, which will total £393m. Local workers will be able to find out about contracts and job opportunities at Teesworks by visiting www.teesworks.co.uk. The branding was developed by Middlesbrough-based Better Brand Agency.

CULTURE AND TOURISM

3. The Tees Valley will host a fixture of the 2021 Rugby League World Cup between the Cook Islands and Tonga. The fixture will take place at the Riverside Stadium on 7th November 2021. This news follows the announcement that the Tees Valley will be the host destination for the Cook Islands men's international rugby league team for next year's World Cup finals. The team will be based at Rockcliffe Hall hotel and train at Darlington's Mowden Park arena. The event could give the Tees Valley an economic boost of up to £8m, attracting tens of thousands of international rugby fans to the area.
4. The Combined Authority continues to roll out its £1m recovery programme to support businesses in the hospitality & visitor economy and cultural industries.
5. The programme's Welcome Back Grant Fund was extremely well received with 260 businesses supported to the value of £338,000.
6. The Welcome Back strand of activity also includes online support for businesses through a webinar programme. Topics were selected based on industry feedback and include Health & Safety, First Aid and Health & Wellbeing.
7. Phase One of the Welcome Back campaign saw a campaign encouraging Tees Valley residents back into Tees Valley visitor economy businesses. Phase two will extend the messaging into a 1-2 hour drive time to attract day visitors and overnight stays.
8. LEP Board Member, Annabel Turpin, has accepted the Mayor's invitation to head up the Cultural Industries & Visitor Economy Recovery Taskforce to guide the development of approaches for the £1million recovery programme. The Taskforce met for the first time on 31st July. A number of Task & Finish groups are now being formed to develop detailed thinking around programme strands including 'The Class of 2020', Destination Development, and Development & Innovation.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

9. The Combined Authority has been awarded £20,000 from the Careers & Enterprise Companies My Choices Transition project. The funding will provide careers support for 10 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) schools for those pupils in transition years to access work experience placements and preparation for work support.
10. The new Apprenticeship Grant has approved Grants for 69 businesses to create new apprenticeships for 16-20 year olds.
11. The Combined Authority has received notification of an additional allocation of devolved Adult Education Budget to the value of £1.2m, this will be utilised during Academic year 2020/21 to support more unemployed people access training, directly related to future jobs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no financial implications to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no legal implications to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

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