

AGENDA ITEM 7**REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****FRIDAY 24th JULY 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 reopened to passengers on 22 June, with the first flights since it closed due to the coronavirus pandemic taking off to Aberdeen and Belfast. A newly announced route to Newquay also took off on July 6, alongside the previously revealed route to London City. Flights to Alicante will also begin in August. Eastern Airways also launched a summer sale on 10,000 seats, which will see fares start at £49.99 for all routes from the airport. The airport is currently only open to those intending to fly, with a six-step health and safety procedure in place for passengers and staff. We are in constant communication with our airline partners on the return of other destinations.
2. A deal has been struck with KLM which will ensure its flights to Amsterdam Schiphol continue for at least the next five years. The airline also announced that flights to the Dutch capital will resume from 3 August, initially once-daily, returning to three-times daily when market conditions allow.

CAREERS EDUCATION

3. The Combined Authority has continued to support schools and colleges to continue offering careers education remotely during the COVID-19 outbreak and has relaunched the Career.com website to provide accessible careers information.
4. We were recently successful in gaining a third wave careers pilot from the Careers Enterprise Company, securing an additional £288,000. This formally recognises all

Tees Valley age 11-18 education establishments as part of the national Hub approach.

5. In addition, strand 4 of the Opportunity NE has now been implemented. This is a DfE initiative supporting 12 Tees Valley schools, to offer 360 pupils intensive careers support over two years.

APPRENTICESHIPS

6. Our new Employer Grant for Apprentices, supporting new apprentices aged 16-20 in priority sectors was launched on 18th June. As at 15th July, 45 businesses have formally applied, 29 grants have been approved supporting 29 new apprentices.

HIGH POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

7. The Combined Authority Business Investment team has completed a 'High Potential Opportunities' proposition with the Department for International Trade (DIT) highlighting the opportunities for overseas investors in Carbon Fibre Production in Tees Valley.
8. This proposition was informed through our collaboration with Teesside University, Sembcorp, CPI and DIT's Materials lead and is now being taken to market to targeted overseas companies through DIT's overseas posts.
9. The opportunity highlights the potential for carbon fibre within the UK's automotive, aerospace and renewables sectors, coupled with Tees Valley unique asset base for large scale process industry manufacturing.
10. The team have also submitted a further proposal to develop another proposition to position the Tees Valley bioscience cluster ahead of international competition.
11. The Tees Valley bioscience cluster is well positioned to respond to current trends across the health, bioenergy and clean growth agendas covering bio-based production across five distinct segments:
 - BioScience R&D (working across all segments & industries);
 - Industrial Sciences – Chemicals & plastics;
 - Industrial Sciences – Food & drink;
 - Life Sciences/Healthcare – MedTech;
 - Life Sciences/Healthcare – Pharma
12. The sector is supported by key innovation assets and companies within Tees Valley including:
 - Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) – focused on industrial biotechnology, and the UK's largest bio-innovation centre;
 - CPI's NBMC – focused on biologics and the commercialisation of R&D;
 - FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies, a globally leading CDMO
 - Teesside University's National Horizons Centre

13. This will support Tees Valley's focus on becoming a net zero carbon manufacturing cluster through the transition to a hydrogen economy and through industrial CCS, creating a new UK net zero carbon manufacturing platform for new inward investors.

EMERGENCY ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND

14. During the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown there have been unprecedented levels of walking and cycling across the UK. In response, and to support the recovery phase, the Department for Transport (DfT) announced a £250m Emergency Active Travel Fund, to support increased levels of walking and cycling. The indicative Tees Valley allocation, subject to the submission of satisfactory plans is £2,153,000.
15. This money is being split into two tranches with an indicative allocation for the Combined Authority of £431,000 in the first tranche. The purpose of this money is to move swiftly and meaningfully to reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians. The five local highway authorities have developed a wide range of proposals appropriate to their settlements which formed the basis of the submission to DfT. This includes the provision of temporary segregated cycleways, new temporary footpaths and the widening of existing footways and temporary pedestrian crossings.
16. A grant confirmation has now been received for this funding and in view of the programme proposed, the Combined Authority has benefitted from an increased allocation and is receiving £481,519. The additional funding will enable the local highway authorities to deliver additional activity in line with their original proposals.
17. The Combined Authority indicative allocation for the second tranche is £1.7m. The additional money provides an opportunity to look at more transformational interventions to capitalise on the short term changes in travel behaviour. There is the potential to link this delivery with our Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP) programme, which has an initial £4m allocation from the Integrated Transport Plan. This additional funding is an opportunity to bring forward elements of the proposed LCWIP schemes across the whole of Tees Valley to support access to our urban centres and support a green post COVID-19 recovery. Further guidance has now been issued and submissions are required by 7th August.

E-SCOOTERS

18. As part of the green restart of local transport in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DfT consulted on urgent legislation to allow trials of rental e-scooters to commence to help mitigate reduced public transport capacity.
19. E-scooters have been identified as a fast and clean way to travel that could ease the burden on the public transport network and allow for social distancing. In a very short space of time, a suitable delivery partner has been identified, a commercially viable proposition developed, with no financial contribution from the Combined Authority, and a submission made to the DfT and approved for a Tees Valley wide pilot.
20. Middlesbrough became the first place in the UK to launch a trial of e-scooters on 13th July. Launches in Hartlepool and Redcar & Cleveland will follow very shortly with Darlington and Stockton expected to follow in the coming weeks as the changes to Traffic Regulation Orders come into force.

DECARBONISING TRANSPORT

21. At the last Combined Authority Cabinet meeting there was a discussion around the importance of the Combined Authority supporting the uptake of electric and hydrogen vehicles. This is a recognised priority in our Strategic Transport Plan and in order to provide added impetus, the Combined Authority is to recruit a Transport Planning Officer with a dedicated focus on decarbonising transport. The role will focus on three key aspects:

- To oversee the successful management, co-ordination, and delivery of the Combined Authority funded programme to install public charging infrastructure and increase the uptake of electric vehicles.
- To work alongside commercial electric and hydrogen vehicle infrastructure providers to maximise commercial investment into Tees Valley and help to ensure a co-ordinated and integrated network.
- To support business and the public sector to secure grant funding for electric and hydrogen vehicle infrastructure and vehicles to maximise grant investment into Tees Valley.

MIDDLESBROUGH STATION

22. Addressing the capacity constraints at Middlesbrough Station is a key component of our strategic approach to rail as set out in the Strategic Transport Plan and essential to unlocking the capacity needed to deliver improved services and better connectivity across Tees Valley.

23. The Middlesbrough Station Outline Business Case is now complete and the project comprises a number of inter-related phases which will transform the station. The first phase of the project includes the extension of the existing platform 2 in 2021 to accommodate longer trains. This will include the 10-car trains expected to be used on the LNER service between Middlesbrough and London when this begins in 2021. A further phase will see construction of a new platform 3 to provide additional capacity and resilience at the station and enable an increase in service frequency in the future. It is anticipated that work will be completed to enable this to be used from late 2022. Integral to both of these schemes are improvements to the passenger facilities at the station and enhancement of the customer experience.

24. The second phase of the project will see work begin on the restoration and redevelopment of the derelict and redundant undercroft to providing new business premises and a new entrance into the station. Work is expected to begin on this early 2021 with completion by the end of the year. Complementing this is work in the adjacent public realm which is being led by Middlesbrough Council as part of Historic England's High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) programme, which provides an opportunity to stimulate the regeneration of the historic area around the station.

25. The total cost of the scheme is currently estimated at £33.95m, with funding contributions from DfT, Network Rail, Trans-Pennine Express, Middlesbrough Council and Historic England being leveraged by the Combined Authority's £22.5m contribution to the scheme.

CULTURE & TOURISM

26. Tees Valley will welcome 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 Tees Valley an economic boost of up to £8m, attracting tens of thousands of international rugby fans to the area. Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium will also host a game during the major international competition.
27. The Combined Authority has launched a £1m recovery programme to support businesses in the hospitality & visitor economy and cultural industries.
28. The programme includes the Welcome Back grant fund which will support public facing businesses in these sectors to re-open in-line with Government guidance regarding the easing of lockdown restrictions. Grants of £500 - £1,500 are available to support eligible businesses with the costs of re-opening.
29. The Welcome Back strand of activity also includes online support for businesses through webinars, expert guidance, provision of toolkits etc. and the launch of a public-facing Welcome Back campaign to grow public confidence in Tees Valley as a visitor destination.
30. The wider programme will focus on supporting business development and innovation; growing Tees Valley's proposition and profile as a walking & cycling destination; supporting emerging graduates and school leavers hoping to pursue careers in the creative and visitor sectors, and scoping Tees Valley's festival proposition in 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

31. An inspirational "comeback" video has been produced to showcase the area and its resilience in coming back stronger than ever following the coronavirus pandemic. It contained motivational messages that aimed to inspire and reassure local people that the region can bounce back economically and socially, as we have in the past. To date, the film has had more than 250,000 views and 4,000 engagements on social media and is the Combined Authority's best performing post to date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

32. There are no financial implications to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

33. There are no legal implications to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

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