

AGENDA ITEM 4**REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET****24th SEPTEMBER 2021****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**COVID-19 RESPONSE**

1. As the economy continues to re-open, our Covid response is increasingly aligned with the mainstream delivery of plans designed to build resilience and support longer term growth. The latest Investment Plan refresh (agreed by Cabinet in July 2021) included changes to allocations to address the impact of Covid and ensure we provide the necessary investment to restart our economy.
2. Over £3.5m Covid-19 Recovery Funds have now been delivered including Welcome Back Fund, Back to Business Funds, Culture Innovation Fund, Festivals Recovery Fund, Mayor's Challenge, Education Recovery and Employer Grant for Apprenticeships:

Fund	Number of businesses supported	Funds delivered
Welcome Back Fund	333	£438,000
Back to Business (Visitor Economy)	73	£202,000

Back to Business (Wider Economy)	232	£778,000
Festivals Recovery Fund	24	£345,000
Cultural Development and Innovation Fund	21	£333,545.
Education Recovery	60 (schools)	£900,000
Apprenticeship Grants	86	£982,000

3. The Covid-19 Business Support Helpline has taken 1200 calls.
4. 104 applications were approved for the Apprenticeship Support Grant.
5. The Routes to Work pilot project, which engages those furthest from employment, was extended by one year and expanded to enable any unemployed person over 16 to access support to gain work and has now engaged over 3493 people with over 760 assisted into employment. This pilot will now end on 31st March 2022. The new Restart initiative will support 17,000 Tees Valley long term unemployed people over the next three years.
6. Tees Valley Combined Authority are working with the Learning and Work Institute as part of a Department of Education pilot to ascertain best practice in helping people whose careers are most affected by the pandemic.
7. The Combined Authority continues to provide weekly updates on the economic impact of Covid-19 to the government, including intelligence provided by the local business community and local authorities.
8. The Combined Authority responded to the Kickstart opportunity as part of the Governments Plan for Jobs, this programme offers 6 months paid work experience to young people aged 16-24 and on Universal Credit. As of 17th August. 707 placements have been created in 196 businesses equating to approximately £5.2m.
9. Tees Valley Business are supporting with delivery and promotion of the National programmes such as Help to Grow - Management, Help to Grow – Digital and the Peer to Peer Networks.
10. The Mayor's Challenge 'Digital Solutions to Support the Local Response to Covid-19 Challenge' was launched in June, offering grant funding for projects able to begin on a trial basis within 4 weeks of approval and supporting the reopening of the regional economy. 2 businesses were approved for funding totalling £49,688.

TEESSIDE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

11. Teesside international Airport has continued its domestic and international route development, with the first holiday flights to Corfu taking off in 12 years with Ryanair. TUI, the UK's biggest holiday company, has also announced and put on sale a second 2022 summer destination, to the popular region of Antalya on Turkey's south-west coast. This joins its weekly flights to Palma, Majorca, running every Thursday from 10 May next year. Loganair, the UK's biggest regional airline, has also confirmed it will fly from Teesside to Dublin four times a week between May and October next year.
12. Work on the final piece of the airport's terminal redevelopment has been undertaken, with the creation of Teesside International's new Duty-Free shop. Darlington-based Wharton Construction has been chosen to lead the work, joined by Powercare Electrical Services and RTS Joinery. The store will be operated by World Duty Free under a 12-year deal with the airport.
13. The first hydrogen vehicle projects as part of the Tees Valley Hydrogen Test Hub have been announced which will see a number of hydrogen vehicles tested at the airport. These include a ground support tug used to tow planes, two Toyota Mirai hydrogen fuel cell cars as well as a forklift truck.

TEESWORKS

14. On 2 August, work began to demolish the Redcar Blast Furnace, kick-starting an accelerated demolition schedule across each of the 11 major plants across the site. The first section to be demolished was the main charge conveyor, with other structures, such as the chimney stacks at the Basic Oxygen Steelmaking (BOS) Plant brought down. The £113million programme will free up 600 acres of land, paving the way for future investment. All of the major structures are expected to be down in the next 12 months.
15. Teesworks Heritage Taskforce has published its plans to celebrate the history of the site, with a collection of items carefully removed from key structures and buildings to form part of future exhibitions. The site has also been captured via videos, time lapse footage, drone footage, 3D modelling and high-resolution photography. The Combined Authority will now work with local authorities, museums and other groups to decide how to display the preserved items, including the last slab of steel cast in Teesside.
16. Coins which went on sale to commemorate the history of the site have raised more than £25,000 for two Redcar community groups. The Teesworks coins, forged from some of the last iron from the site, were sold with a suggested donation of £10, with £13,456 from their sale awarded to men's mental health group Walk N Talk and £12,687 for voluntary community group Ladies of Steel.

ONE PUBLIC ESTATE

17. The OPE programme is a national programme delivered in partnership by the Local Government Association and the Office of Government Property within the Cabinet Office. The programme provides practical and technical support and funding to deliver ambitious property-focused programmes in collaboration with central government and other public sector partners. It aims to generate efficiencies, create economic growth (including homes and jobs) and deliver better, more integrated customer services.
18. TVCA is the accountable body for the OPE programme in Tees Valley. The Programme is overseen by a Strategic Estates Group, which maintains operational co-ordination and implementation of programme activity. The Strategic Estates Group has been successful in securing £758,750 of resources for Tees Valley.
19. Work is ongoing with public sector partners to identify a pipeline of future projects in preparation for future OPE funding rounds and to explore alignment of the OPE programme with town centre regeneration programmes e.g. Future High Street Fund, Town Deals.

BUSINESS INVESTMENT

20. The Combined Authority Business Investment team is working with Department for International Trade (DIT) to prepare content for the upcoming Global Investment Summit and COP26 in October and November. This will include summary messages of both the Bio Manufacturing and Offshore wind high potential opportunities showcases for inward investment.
21. In addition, the team will be exhibiting at Chem UK, the UK Chemical Industries Supply Chain expo in Birmingham, on September 15th and 16th, and exhibiting as part of Energi Coast at Global Offshore Wind conference in London on September 29th & 30th.
22. Further exhibitions are planned to promote Tees Valley at Advanced Engineering 2021, a leading engineering and supply chain event being held in November and Offshore Wind North East 2021, a regional showcase for the offshore wind supply chain in December.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

23. The Collaborative Skills programme that supports small and medium sized businesses to prepare their workforce for their future sustainability is going from strength to strength with 120 businesses engaged and 134 employees upskilled in relevant skills that businesses will need in the future.
24. The new academic year commenced and implementation of our Adult Education offer, including the newly devolved L3 training offer from the 31 successful training

providers, including Further Education colleges, 6th Forms, Independent Training Providers and Local Authorities is well underway with good levels of enrolments.

25. Tees Valley was announced as one of the 8 successful Local Skills Improvement Plan Trailblazer areas. The Chamber of Commerce will work with local partners and businesses to define the skills that are required for future economic growth and investment.

CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT

26. The Government has committed to invest between £4.2 billion and £6.8 billion through City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) for eight city regions, including Tees Valley. The funding will cover the five-year period from 2022/23. To succeed, bids must clearly show how they will deliver the following objectives:
 - driving growth and productivity through infrastructure investment;
 - levelling-up services towards the standards of the best; and
 - decarbonising transport, especially promoting modal shift from cars to public transport, walking and cycling.
27. The Tees Valley bid was submitted in early September 2021 setting out how we need to deliver a world-class transport system at pace to underpin our transformative economic growth ambition. The bid makes the case to Government that securing the upper bound funding allocation from the CRSTS is critical to ensure that:
 - everyone, no matter where they live in the Tees Valley, is connected to opportunity; and
 - business can grow and Tees Valley is able to continue attracting new businesses and inward investment.
28. It is anticipated that the Tees Valley funding allocation will be announced later in 2021.

TEES FLEX

29. The Tees Flex service continues to perform well and the 4-week period from 25/07/21 – 21/08/21 was the busiest since the service launched with 5,816 completed rides. Customer feedback remains very high and publicity activity is ongoing to promote further take-up of the service. Unlike more standard bus services, where older concessionary pass holders tend to make-up a significant proportion of passengers, Tees Flex is attracting a different demographic. In the same 4-week period 67% of passengers were fare paying adults and around 20% were under 19.

EAST COAST MAIN LINE MAY 2022 TIMETABLE CONSULTATION

30. The proposed changes to the East Coast Main Line (ECML) May 2022 timetable have been postponed until at least 2023. This follows a joint response from the Combined Authority and all local authorities making it clear that the proposed reduction in services, particularly at Darlington, was not considered acceptable. The postponement of the ECML timetable does not affect the LNER Middlesbrough to London service, which is still scheduled to commence in December 2021 with an initial one train per day in each direction. A major milestone was reached in relation

to this in August 2021 when tickets for the service went on sale. It is also understood that the proposed extension of the TransPennine Express from Manchester Airport to Saltburn will still commence from May 2022. Officers will continue to engage with train operating companies to ensure the best possible outcome for Tees Valley in future timetable changes.

BILLINGHAM STATION ACCESS FOR ALL PROJECT

31. A significant milestone was reached in early September when the business case was approved for the £1.0m contribution to the Billingham Station project and agreements signed with Network Rail for delivery. Billingham is the only station in Tees Valley which currently has no step-free access to any of its platforms.
32. The £3.59m project will be delivered with additional funding from Network Rail, the Department for Transport's Access For All fund and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The project will replace the existing pedestrian footbridge, which is approaching the end of its life, with a new one served by lifts at both sides. This will provide step-free access making it suitable for wheelchair users. In addition, a series of car park and access route improvements will take place to make the station even better to use for all passengers.

CLEAN GROWTH AND INNOVATION

33. The North East and Yorkshire Energy Hub is delivering its £53 million allocation of the Green Homes Grant LAD2 programme in 27 of its 31 local authorities. Aligned to this, TVCA has led a bid into the Sustainable Warmth Competition for £6.8 million to improve the energy efficiency of low income homes across the region.
34. The Tees Valley Cluster Plan for Decarbonisation has begun engagement with businesses in the region's industrial cluster. The project, a partnership between BP, NEPIC and TVCA, now has a full time project manager and will deliver plan to reach Net Zero within the cluster by 2040.
35. TVCA will host a flagship event of the BEIS funded Zero Carbon Tour in October 2021, as part of the region's build up to COP26. This is supported by the North East and Yorkshire Energy Hub, which has been central to the planning and delivery of the tour in its region. Funding for regional 'green zones' has also been available via the energy hub for events delivering the COP26 message throughout the North East and Yorkshire.

CREATIVE PLACE

Cultural Industries and Visitor Economy Recovery Programme

36. Following the final meeting of the Independent Sector Recovery Task Force (a Creative Place Advisory Group has been established to inform longer-term activity), three elements of the Cultural Industries and Visitor Economy Recovery Programme remain in delivery:

- Cultural Development & Innovation Fund
- Festivals 2021 Recovery Fund
- Tees Valley Young Creatives

Key findings and evaluation of the programme will be shared once all programme elements are complete with learning being incorporated into future activity.

Beyond the work of the Task Force, a new Creative Place Advisory Group will ensure continued independent sector engagement with representatives working alongside Local Authority Officers and other national / regional agencies to advise and inform Creative Place activity.

Growth Programme for the Creative & Visitor Economies

37. The process of developing the four 'Foundation Frameworks' which will underpin the programme is nearing completion. The consultant teams have delivered an extensive stakeholder engagement process, including round table sessions with each of the Local Authorities; 1-to-1 interviews with professionals from across the creative and visitor economy sectors; workshops with a diverse range of stakeholders, including a dedicated session for young people; and resident, visitor and business surveys. This process, combined with extensive data gathering and analysis, will form a robust baseline from which will inform detailed programme objectives, intervention approaches and measuring of impacts.

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP

38. In August, it was announced that the Rugby League World Cup 2021 would be postponed until 2022. The Tees Valley was due to host a game between the Cook Island and Tonga, and also the Cook Islands national team, in November this year. The Combined Authority had anticipated that this would be the case in the face of the Covid pandemic, and there has not been, nor will there be, any additional financial impact due to the postponement or restaging. The dates for the 2022 tournament have been announced as 15th October to 19th November 2022, with the rescheduled Tees Valley match to be confirmed.

TEES VALLEY PLACE MARKETING PROGRAMME

39. Work is progressing with the development of a Destination Management Plan for the Tees Valley which will underpin the new Growth Programme for the Creative & Visitor Economies. This strategic document will focus on the development and marketing of the region over the next 4 years.

40. Enjoy Tees Valley summer campaign launched with a strategic focus on a target audience of a two-hour drive time across the North East and Yorkshire and domestic destinations linked to Teesside Airport. Focused on the reopening of businesses, in line with the Government roadmap, the campaign put the spotlight on businesses and captured members of the public 'enjoying' the Tees Valley on camera and in film.
41. A schedule of events and festivals taking place around the region displayed Enjoy Tees Valley branding and featured within a mix of film and photography for the summer campaign.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

42. There are no financial implications to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

43. There are no legal implications to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

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