
LEADER'S OVERVIEW

Regional and Tees Valley Updates

1. The Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) Order 2016 was made on 29 March 2016 and came into force on 1 April 2016. The Order established the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and provided for it to have transport, economic development and regeneration functions. The inaugural meeting followed on 4 April 2016, a landmark event for our economic partnership of 10+ years.
2. The inaugural meeting of the TVCA, which is a public meeting, heard presentations from Ada Burns on our transport priorities and Sirius mines on the exciting development on the North Yorkshire Moors.
3. The next full meeting on 7 June 2016 will be the AGM and will confirm members of the Board and Committee including Audit and Scrutiny.
4. TVCA Board, with input from business, public sector agencies and the Council Chief Executives made an appointment to the new role of Managing Director. (Press statement included – **see Appendix 1**) Andrew Lewis, who has worked with me on Transport for the North East CA, is experienced and will provide strong advice and leadership.

Transport

5. Together with the Chief Executive I continue to devote significant time representing the Tees Valley on transport matters. As a member of the Transport for the North (TFN) Partnership Board, and with the Chief Executive serving on the Executive Board, our efforts are focused on securing support from this influential new body for the four key schemes that will unlock growth across the Tees Valley. Two of these priorities are located within Darlington, Bank Top station and an East West link improving A66 and A1 connectivity.
6. While delivery of major infrastructure is not a fast process our efforts are securing support; the rail project at Darlington is being assessed alongside a small number of 'Other Significant Economic Centres' to go forward as part of the Northern Powerhouse Rail programme and the other Tees Valley schemes are supported for further analysis by the TFN.
7. I represented Tees Valley at a major conference Transport and the North East conference on 5 May 2016, hosted by Business Services Association (BSA). The event gave me an opportunity to outline our perspective on improving transport connectivity across the North East of England, inter-city transport, public/private

sector collaboration and devolution.

General Updates

8. I continue to meet residents, businesses and community groups as part of our wide ranging consultation on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) proposals. I have been struck by the understanding and realism that people have and by their willingness to find solutions to the challenges we face. There was extensive participation in my Facebook/ Twitter Q&A on 19 April and it is clear that social media is a powerful tool in reaching out into communities.
9. I continue to meet local businesses to promote business engagement, and I recently visited Cleveland Bridge to discuss a number of issues, including encouraging engineering. We're pleased to meet our new youth MP, the Deputy Liam White.

Policing and Community Safety

10. The Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners for Cleveland and County Durham have jointly commissioned 'Safe in Tees Valley' to run the new Victim's Service. This is a two-year contract, which began in April. Information days about the implementation and operation of the new service were held at the end of February.
11. The Durham Constabulary Community Hub, which was opened in Priestgate in the weeks leading up to Christmas, proved a success, providing a venue where residents could come and express views and concerns about community safety issues. Consideration is being given to whether to open the Hub again in the coming months.
12. The Community Safety Partnership Board has begun the process of reviewing current structures to ensure that all appropriate links are in place with other Boards to provide a more co-ordinated approach.

Drug and Alcohol and Tobacco Team (DAAT)

13. Discussions about the future of governance arrangements for the substance use agenda in Darlington are continuing with key partners and stakeholders, as part of the ongoing consultation process around the MTFP proposals. Consultation on the related proposals included an event, hosted by NECA in April, which offered service users and carers the opportunity to provide feedback.
14. The DAAT has been closely involved with the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust's roll-out of the project to become smoke-free across all its sites, including Darlington's West Park Hospital, which was successfully achieved by 'No Smoking Day' on 9 March 2016. Work is ongoing to maintain progress.
15. The DAAT was pleased to be able to confirm that the Young People's Floating Support Service, that had been at risk as part of a wider service involved in the

MTFP proposals, has had funding confirmed for the remaining two years of the contract.

16. Work has continued on developing the Substance Use Pathways. The prison discharge pathway pilot has proved to be extremely well received by all partners involved. Further work continues around young people's secondary care pathways and dual diagnosis.
17. Progress on development of the local Substance Use Strategy 2015/18 continued. Following a meeting with the Home Office Drug Strategy Lead, Jenna Marsh, it was confirmed that the new, National Drugs Strategy will be a refresh of the 2010 strategy. Publication of the National strategy is due in the Spring 2016 and key elements will be incorporated into the local strategy.
18. The Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS/Legal Highs) Stakeholder Group continues to progress the local action plan to tackle associated harms. Recent work includes filming of interviews with journalism students at Darlington College for an awareness raising video. Following the delivery of a partnership workshop at a Regional NPS Event, hosted by Public Health England, in Darlington, the students have been asked to share their DVD for use in a range of settings. Interest in this included senior partners from the prison service.

Darlington Partnership

19. Plans to hold a 'Festival of Ingenuity' in the Town Centre this Summer are at an advanced stage. It will be a two day event over 8 and 9 July in Darlington Town Centre and the Dolphin Centre. There are three objectives:-
 - (a) to raise the profile of Darlington as a centre for 'Ingenious' businesses (with a focus on engineering);
 - (b) to engage children and their parents in fun interactive activities with the aim of fostering a positive image of engineering as a career path; and
 - (c) to generate significant footfall in the Town Centre.
20. Many of the major engineering businesses in Darlington have agreed to take part including Cummins, MechTool Engineering, Cleveland Bridge and Modus.

Bill Dixon
Leader

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY ANNOUNCED

Andrew Lewis has been announced as the Managing Director of recently-launched Tees Valley Combined Authority.

Andrew joins from Newcastle City Council where he was Assistant Chief Executive, and played an important role in securing deals with government on funding and devolution. A former senior HM Treasury economist, and Director of the Northern Way, he is an experienced leader within central, regional and local government. He brings considerable experience working on economic strategy, transport, inward investment and the delivery of complex projects.

The Combined Authority cements and formalises the partnership between the five local authorities and Tees Valley Unlimited (the private sector led Local Enterprise Partnership for Tees Valley), creating a new and even more effective approach to driving economic prosperity and growth in the Tees Valley

Councillor Sue Jeffrey, Chair of Tees Valley Combined Authority and Leader of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, said: “Andrew has the knowledge and understanding of business and partnerships to be able to work closely and effectively with all sectors to develop and seize opportunities to diversify and grow the Tees Valley economy.

“Tees Valley has bold ambitions and aspirations and Andrew’s qualities and excellent track record made him the ideal candidate to take the helm of the Combined Authority.”

Paul Booth, Tees Valley Unlimited Chair and Combined Authority member, said “The calibre and enthusiasm of the Combined Authority’s new Managing Director will be great assets in helping Tees Valley successfully meet the challenges and opportunities ahead, particularly in the key growth sectors of digital and creative, low carbon technology, logistics, advanced manufacturing and engineering. “

Andrew said: “I am delighted to be joining the Combined Authority at the start of an exciting process of devolution, with the opportunity to deliver a real step-change in economic growth and new jobs for the Tees Valley”.

“Tees Valley has a reputation as a dynamic and forward-thinking area, with huge potential, and a great track record in partnership working.”

Andrew will be leading work to establish the role of the Combined Authority making sure that it functions effectively, prepares to deliver new devolved responsibilities, and that it works in an open and democratically accountable way that is accessible and understood by the people of the Tees Valley.

Tees Valley Combined Authority has negotiated the first phase of an ambitious devolution deal with Government and also will build on the firm economic foundations that have been established by TVU, which now is an integral part of the new statutory body.

The LEP, a successful collaboration between the private sector and local government, aims to create 25,000 jobs and £1bn extra GVA by 2022. The combined forces of the Combined Authority and the LEP will drive and accelerate growth and opportunities for the area’s businesses and residents.

Andrew Lewis is expected to join Tees Valley Combined Authority in July.

ENDS

NEWS RELEASE: ISSUED ON BEHALF OF TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY

CONTACT: Helen Logan 01325 363436