
LEADER'S OVERVIEW

Regional and Tees Valley Updates

1. The first election of a Mayor to the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) was held on 4 May 2017, with the Count taking place on the morning of 5 May 2017. This is a new role, leading the work of the TVCA. The TVCA brings together the areas of five constituent authorities, including Darlington, to work in partnership to promote the economic development of the Tees Valley as a whole. The Mayor will work alongside the five authorities to improve the economy of the area, bring in new investment and create jobs, and will Chair the Combined Authority.
2. I attended the second North East Rail Management Unit (NERMU) Board meeting on 6 April 2017. The meeting had two main objectives, namely to consider and approve the NERMU Business Plan and to hear from both Northern and TransPennine, following a year of operation under new franchise arrangements.
3. Leo Goodwin, Managing Director (First TransPennine Railway) and Pete Myers, Stakeholder Manager (Arriva Northern Railway), were invited to give an overview on each of the Franchises to date and also detail some of the investment they have planned. The Board forms a productive forum to help influence future rail performance and investment.
4. **CBI President Visit** - CBI President Paul Drechsler visited the Tees Valley on 5 April 2017. As a passionate advocate for the region, having worked in the Tees Valley in his early career, Paul shared his thoughts on Industrial Strategy, supporting Regional Growth, and on the importance of innovation, education and skills for the future prosperity of Tees Valley – and the North as a whole.
5. I paid a visit to the HITACHI plant on 29 March to share exciting plans for Darlington 2025 – A Modern Rail Hub for a Modern Economy as shown in this link http://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/1330252/d5193_brochure-8pp-s5-hr.pdf. Given my regional role for Transport, I was eager to share the ambitious and highly strategic proposals for Bank Top Station. We also had a general discussion about how the company could possibly be involved in Business aspects of Darlington Cares, Foundation for Jobs and possible links with Darlington schools, the Heritage agenda, and links with the A1 Trust. The plant management support the need to secure investment in the rail network.
6. I had a meeting with the Economic portfolio lead on Durham County Council in April to share the plans for Darlington railway station and the east west road link. These investments have potential to support the economic growth of the County and I am pleased we can work together to secure the investment required. I will be

having similar discussions with the Leader in North Yorkshire County Council.

7. City Leaders from across the regions gathered for a HS2 Business Briefing to promote the wider economic benefits of the Eastern leg on 27 April 2017 in Edinburgh. The Eastern leg will promote and increase connectivity within the regions to ensure benefits can be felt beyond the urban centres.

Cabinet

8. A report was considered at Cabinet on 4 April 2017 on the enquiry event into the NHS, Sustainable and Transformation Plan (STP), where it was agreed to continue to progress opportunities for engagement and discussion with communities potentially impacted by the STP proposals.

Darlington Partnership

9. I attended the last Darlington Partnership Board meeting on 8 March 2017. The Partnership is supporting the development of a new Children and Young People's Plan. At the meeting the board considered some of the key issues facing Darlington's children including health and wellbeing, education and employment which will help inform the focus of the forthcoming plan.
10. Following the success of last year's event, work is underway planning this year's Festival of Ingenuity which will be held on 22 and 23 September 2017. All the businesses and organisations involved in last year's festival have signed up again this year with more coming on board. Visitors will be able to take a vintage bus trip to have a guided tour of the Darlington Locomotive Yard and a visit to the Head of Steam Museum. In addition, festival goers will also be to visit the Tees Pumping Station.

Community Safety

11. Since the last meeting of Council, the Darlington Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board met on 10 April. Presentations were received, including Anti-Social Behaviour case studies and the Restorative Approach in Darlington.
12. The CSP Board agreed the next informal meeting of partners to share information and intelligence about patterns of substance misuse will be in June or July.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

13. Darlington Community Safety Partnership ASB Strategic and Problem Solving Groups have now been combined. The initial meeting of the revised structure took place on 5 April 2017.
14. This Council and Durham Constabulary have recently introduced a 'Joint Agency ASB Hub' in Central House Annex, Darlington. Resources are co-located, sharing information and intelligence and together with other partners effectively targeting people and places which are identified as local ASB problems.

15. Partners continue to work effectively and have completed a number of joint investigations, initiatives and targeted operations. A joint operation, 'Operation Staysafe' took place on 7 April 2017 and involved various partners working together to tackle the problems associated with young people committing acts of ASB in Darlington. This coincided with the school holiday period.
16. The Joint Agency Hub is currently focused on a small number of 'target offenders and areas' which are currently causing damage to our communities.

Bill Dixon
Leader