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TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED

Why there is a need for Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU)

Travel to work, to learn, shopping or leisure patterns do not recognise administrative boundaries, and therefore functional economic areas are different to official areas. Much research has been undertaken to identify the key economic areas that operate within England. On this basis Government has focused much of its attention and policy development on taking “City Region” and “Sub Regional” working forward. Government has defined the Tees Valley area together with parts of the adjoining areas as a City Region and asked the local authorities to set out the vision for the area and how it can be realised. The Tees Valley authorities have a long history of joint working and achievements, which assists a grounded theory approach, in which tacit knowledge, policy systems, emerge progressively.

TVU Mechanisms: Engagement, Partnership, Leadership

Both Government and the Tees Valley authorities recognise that in developing local economies, successful engagement between the public and private sectors is needed to maximise the combined impact of public and private investment. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the objectives and priorities, and making use of private sector expertise and finance in the delivery of public sector interventions.

Tees Valley Unlimited was established in shadow form in May 2007 bringing together the public and the private sector to lead the future development of the Tees Valley economy. The first official meeting was held in July 2008.

Tees Valley Unlimited consists of a number of elements as follows:

- Leadership Board (comprising the Tees Valley Local Authority Leaders and Mayors with representatives from the private sector, with a private sector chair, currently Hugh Lang, Group Airports Director, Peel Airports Group);
- Executive (comprising the Tees Valley Local Authority Chief Executives and other key Chief Executives from City Region public sector bodies and private sector bodies. There are also observers from Regional and National organisations);
- Five Sub-Boards to cover the range of City Region working – planning and economic strategy, transport, skills and employment, housing and tourism. The current structure is being reviewed in light of changing circumstances and will be developed to ensure that TVU is in a position to be effective.

Tees Valley Unlimited's Role

TVU's role can be defined as follows:

- to develop and articulate a clear Vision for the future economy of Tees Valley
- to speak with one voice on behalf of Tees Valley
- to influence sub regionally, regionally and nationally to ensure the needs and opportunities for Tees Valley can be addressed
- to ensure that delivery of the TVU work programme is undertaken effectively and efficiently
- to develop and enhance the image of Tees Valley
- to bring together the key partners required to deliver the Vision and maximise the benefits of working collaboratively
- to secure the external funding required to deliver the Vision for Tees Valley and maximise its efficient use
- to develop, share and learn from good practice in regeneration

TVU Processes: Understanding the Economy; Economic Strategy; Delivering Monitoring and Evaluation

The strategic context and rationale for Tees Valley Unlimited's priorities are set out in the **Tees Valley Business Case** which was published in September 2006 at the request of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The **City Region Investment Plan** was developed as a supporting document to the Business Case and included detailed proposals for the physical and economic regeneration, housing market renewal, transport, skills, cultural and environmental interventions. Since the publication of the Investment Plan in 2006, further work has been undertaken to refine the priorities within each of these funding streams, first on an individual basis.

This has culminated in the publication of a **Housing Market Renewal Business Case**, a **City Region Transport Strategy**, and the **Single Programme Investment Plan** where the key capital projects and programmes are set out up to 2016. These documents also set out the key outcomes envisaged through each of these capital programmes. We were then invited to submit proposals for a Tees Valley Multi Area Agreement (MAA) (See separate briefing note). The key objective for our MAA is as follows:

“To deliver the agreed investment priorities earlier than would otherwise have been the case, and more cost effectively, through the integration of physical and fiscal resources and a strong and accountable governance structure within a defined performance monitoring framework.”

The Tees Valley MAA is one of only seven partnerships across England to be signed off by Government on 14 July 2008. Since the signing in July 2008 a further three MAAs have been signed off in January 2009.

Harnessing the Drivers: The Tees Valley Unlimited Business Plan 2009

“To contribute to raising the economic performance of the Tees Valley, to improve the quality of place and the quality of life of its people.”

The TVU Business Plan sets out high level Outcomes (TVUO's) that will enable TVU to contribute to the achievement of its mission. The first economic challenge is the overall performance measure of the mission:

TVUO: to develop the Tees Valley economy faster than the UK economy to narrow the gap in GVA

The following are used as high level outcomes for the purpose of business planning:

- TVUO 1:** To encourage manufacturing industry to innovate and improve its productivity and to develop the service sector;
- TVUO 2:** to maximise the stock of firms in the Tees Valley;
- TVUO 3:** to maximise household income and develop less dependency on out of work benefits;
- TVUO 4:** to maximise economic activity and employment rates;
- TVUO 5:** to both upskill the workforce to obtain Level 3 and Level 4 qualifications and also reduce the people of working age with no qualifications;
- TVUO 6:** to reduce spatial polarisation within the Tees Valley;
- TVUO 7:** to enhance the quality of place within Tees Valley, including the environment, cultural and retail facilities;
- TVUO 8:** to ensure that the housing offer meets household expectations;
- TVUO 9:** to improve the visitor economy;
- TVUO 10:** to improve both internal and external connectivity through a modern competitive transport infrastructure;
- TVUO 11:** to ensure that business sites and accommodation meets business expectations and attracts new investment to the area;

- TVUO 12:** to improve the internal and external perceptions of the Tees Valley;
TVUO 13: a well managed partnership.

How will we know if we are successful?

A detailed performance framework is set out in the Tees Valley Unlimited Business Plan.

When we are successful, we will have helped to raise the economic performance of the Tees Valley, improved the quality of place and the quality of life of its people.