

**Press Release**

**June 9<sup>th</sup> 2011**

## **INNOVATIVE ENTERPRISE ZONE PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED**

TEES Valley Unlimited's Leadership Board has given its backing in principle to plans for the Enterprise Zone for the area.

The plans are the most innovative yet presented for approval by the Government and reflect the pioneering nature of Tees Valley Unlimited and the unique needs of the sub-region.

Under the Enterprise Zone umbrella, a number of sites would be designated which have the potential to create up to 43,000 new jobs, 1,250 new businesses and generate over £4bn worth of capital investment over the next 25 years.

Each site will benefit from one of three key Enterprise Zone enhancements - Business Rate Discount, Capital Allowances and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) - and meet the sub-region's key economic strategies of promoting the area's industrial base and diversifying the economy by supporting the new digital sector.

Under the Business Rate Discount proposals, Queens Meadow and Oakesway in Hartlepool; South West Iron Masters and St Hilda's in Middlesbrough; Kirkleatham in Redcar and Cleveland; Northshore in Stockton; Belasis Hall Technology Park in Billingham; and Central Park in Darlington are all being put forward.

Collectively they will cover 170 hectares and are worth up to £275,000 in business rate relief per business over a five-year period. The discount subsidised by Government is then retained by Tees Valley Unlimited and the local authorities to reinvest locally.



Further sites along the North and South Tees Corridor are being put forward to benefit from Capital Allowance Enhancement. These are Port Estates, Huntsman Pigments and Able Seaton in Hartlepool; Riverside Park in Middlesbrough; PD Ports and Wilton International in Redcar and Cleveland; and Haverton Hill, the New Energy and Technology Park, Seal Sands and Lucite in Stockton.

These larger sites will cover 679 hectares and if the bid is successful will provide financial assistance for companies to buy plant and machinery, making them even more attractive for inward investment and occupation by major industrial enterprises.

In addition, the proposals to be submitted to Government by the end of June seek approval for six TIF areas across 244 hectares – the Prairie site, South Bank Wharf, Billingham North, Billingham South, Billingham Reach and Port Clarence. This incentive allows growth in business rates to fund current infrastructure improvements and is a method regularly used in the United States.

A decision from Government is expected towards the end of July.

**We would like to hear your views on this proposal before we submit it to the Government on 29 June.**

**All views should be sent to Stephen Catchpole, Managing Director of Tees Valley Unlimited at Cavendish House, Teesdale Business Park, Stockton on Tees, TS17 6QY or via e-mail to [Stephen.catchpole@teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.catchpole@teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk) by Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011.**

Mr Catchpole said: “Securing Enterprise Zone status was a massive boost for this area and presents a real opportunity to secure economic growth and prosperity for Tees Valley.



“I believe that we have produced a proposal that is exciting, innovative and will have a transformational affect upon the area’s future economic prospects, particularly in our industrial heartland on Teesside.

“I really hope that everyone will get behind this proposal as it offers the opportunity of real long term benefits on terms of boosting our industrial base and supporting our emerging digital sector.

“All the sites identified support the two key priorities of Tees Valley Unlimited’s Statement of Ambition – to create a high value low carbon economy and a more diverse and inclusive economy for the area.

“There will now be a period of consultation where we will look to receive views on our proposal, and following consideration of these views we will submit our final proposal towards the end of June.”

Tees Valley Unlimited has been working closely with partners and property experts Savills to identify suitable sites for the Enterprise Zone status – awarded to Tees Valley along with 10 other across the country by Chancellor George Osborne in his Budget Statement 2011.

Other benefits of Enterprise Zone status include simplified planning regulations and possible superfast broadband.

John Adlen, Director of Development at Savills, said: “The process we’ve gone through in identifying the sites has been a thorough one using Tees Valley Unlimited’s Statement of Ambition together with other key factors such as deliverability as criteria. We’re confident the proposals will bring maximum reward to the area, supporting growth at all levels.”



For more information contact Leanne English, PR Manager at Tees Valley Unlimited, on 01642 632013, 07725 602824 or email [leanne.english@teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk](mailto:leanne.english@teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk).

**NOTE FOR EDITORS:**

**Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU)** is a partnership between the five Tees Valley Councils, regional regeneration bodies and business leaders to drive forward the future development of the Tees Valley economy.

Further information on TVU activities can be accessed via the following  
**URL: <http://www.teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk>**

