

PRESS RELEASE

August 2011

TEES VALLEY LEP APPOINTS KEY MEMBERS TO UNLOCK POTENTIAL

Tees Valley Unlimited has further strengthened its leadership board with the appointment of three new members, each with a wealth of private sector experience.

Ian Kinnery, David Robinson and David Soley will join the local enterprise partnership (LEP) ensuring key business sector engagement as progress to realise TVU's Statement of Ambition continues at pace.

Ian Kinnery has led the successful development of Tees Valley small and medium enterprises for over 35 years as owner, manager and independent advisor. He identifies a growing entrepreneurial presence across the sub region.

Mr Kinnery said:

“The future of the local economy will be reflective in the ability of SME's to develop and grow in difficult financial circumstances. It is important that the voice of the small business owner is not only represented and heard, but understood and considered. I believe I can provide that perspective and input.”

David Robinson is group chief executive at PD Ports. Having secured the UK's largest investment from Tesco Plc to develop the 1.2 million sq ft facility at Teesport and recording, at 40%, the only growth in container volumes in 2010, Mr Robinson relates to TVU's ambitious and challenging business plan.

He said;

“Playing to our strengths and recognising our opportunities are clear objectives for the area and strong partner engagement will bring these plans

to fruition. I look forward to working alongside board members and stakeholder organisations striving to deliver growth across the Tees Valley.”

David Soley has significant knowledge of the oil and gas sector and is executive chairman of Tenergy Ltd – developing Teesside’s heavy crude oil upgrader, the Wilton Group in Port Clarence, Cameron’s Brewery in Hartlepool, ERS in Middlesbrough - which manages offshore platform decommissioning, and Ramscove in Darlington.

Mr Soley commented;

“My experience lies in developing business in the region and translating aims and targets into actions and results. I believe the successful execution of TVU’s objective will genuinely help rejuvenate the region.”

Stephen Catchpole, TVU’s managing director commented;

“We received a strong response to our invitation for new board members, no doubt in part to a growing reputation as a leading and forward thinking LEP already commended by central government.

“I believe the calibre and enthusiasm of our new board members will prove to be great assets in helping the LEP successfully meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.”

All three members will attend the next leadership board meeting in September. Leadership Board Minutes can be found at www.teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk

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Note to Editor

The Tees Valley Unlimited Leadership Board

Sandy Anderson – Chairman

Paul Booth – President of SABIC UK

Cllr Bob Cook – Leader of Stockton on Tees Borough Council
Cllr Bill Dixon – Leader of Darlington Borough Council
Mayor Stuart Drummond – Hartlepool Borough Council
Cllr George Dunning – Leader of Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Prof Graham Henderson – Vice Chancellor at Teesside University
Alastair MacColl – Chief Executive at Business Enterprise North East
Mayor Ray Mallon – Middlesbrough Borough Council
Alison Thain – Chief Executive at Fabrick Housing Group

New Members as of September 2011

Ian Kinnery
David Robinson
David Soley