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TEES VALLEY SUBMITS BID FOR LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Job creation, business growth, skills development and the regeneration of towns across the Tees Valley are at the heart of a bid by Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) to form a Local Enterprise Partnership for the area.

Today (Monday 6th September) marks the Government's deadline for submissions by business groups and local authorities to form Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as part of its review of economic development across England.

The bid is being made by TVU on behalf of the five councils in Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton and the local business community. It sets out specific details on how the area intends to sustain and build the process sector, renewables and low-carbon industries and wider manufacturing businesses across the Tees Valley as well as increasing the number and variety of firms that create employment for local people.

Sandy Anderson, the private sector chairman of TVU said: "The LEP concept allows us to formalise a way of working that has existed in the Tees Valley for many years and which has resulted in cooperation between the five local authorities and involved local businesses and the third sector in shaping our future.

"But now the government is offering places like the Tees Valley the chance to have a greater say and greater autonomy to pursue our own economic agenda, which is a significant opportunity.

"Our LEP bid also recognises that the Tees Valley's economy is quite different from other places in the North East and indeed the UK, with its own challenges and opportunities. For example, when you consider the larger chemicals companies based at Wilton on Teesside, they are competing with the rest of the world for investment and so we need a planning system and approach to energy supply that will give us that competitive advantage.

“Ultimately, if we are successful in securing a LEP for the Tees Valley then we hope it will mean skilled jobs for local people, new business and investment in our development sites and a boost to the local economy overall.”

As part of its bid TVU is also strongly supporting the Association of North East Councils and the Northern Business Forum’s proposal to form a strategic regional body responsible for the North East.

The bid for a North East Economic Partnership aims to focus on six functions based around inward investment, managing European Funding, sector development, access to finance and innovation and will complement the activity of the Tees Valley LEP.

The Government has set out some specific functions that it sees LEPs having responsibility for including: planning and housing, local transport and infrastructure, employment and enterprise and supporting the transition to a low carbon economy.

TVU has addressed these in its proposal and underpinned it with significant research into the way the area operates as an economic entity. This includes: the way people travel to work, the way goods move in and out of the area and the way Tees Valley competes with the rest of the world.

Ends

For more information contact Leanne English, PR Manager at Tees Valley Unlimited, on 01642 632013, 07725 602824 or email 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>