

## TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED – MOVING FORWARD

As the Tees Valley Unlimited partnership moves into the next stage of its development, with major investment and business development roles coming under its remit, it's been announced today that its next Chairman is to be one of the area's best known business figures.

Sandy Anderson OBE is taking over from airport chief Hugh Lang, who is stepping down after his three-year term chairing TVU which brings together the public, private and voluntary sectors in leading the Tees Valley economy.

Today members of the TVU Leadership Board paid tribute to Mr Lang's contribution in establishing the partnership and bringing the area together in developing a clear vision for the future.

Mr Lang, who became Managing Director of the then Teesside—now Durham Tees Valley—Airport in December 2000, is currently Group Airports Director with Peel Airports. Today he said that, despite facing many major challenges, the Tees Valley's commitment to partnership working meant that it was well placed to create a strong economic base and make the area a place where people want to work, live—and invest.

Explained Mr Lang "Ever since coming to the Tees Valley a decade ago I have been impressed by the willingness of all parts of the community to work together. It was that commitment which led to us developing a shared vision for our economic future—and ultimately, of course, the establishment of Tees Valley Unlimited.

"I believe that TVU has achieved a great deal already in ensuring that our area gains the recognition and support it deserves from Government and other agencies. There have been some significant milestones over the past three years—not least when in July 2008, the same month as we held our first official board meeting, we became one of the first City Regions in the country to sign a Multi Area Agreement with the Government, aimed at delivering key regeneration, housing and transport schemes.

"Our national reputation for leading the way in partnership working was underlined last year when the Local Government Minister John Healey, who spoke at our inaugural annual conference, praised us as an example for other areas to follow.

"Now TVU moves into its next phase of development, with the business investment and regeneration activities previously undertaken through Tees Valley Regeneration, coming

into the fold. It is an important step forward which will significantly assist in developing a genuinely 'joined up' approach to planning our economic goals—and delivering them.

“There is still much work to be done, but I know that TVU could not have a better person to take them forward than Sandy Anderson. I am sure he will enjoy the same help and support as I have enjoyed from fellow Board members and all our partners.”

Praise for Mr Lang’s contribution came from TVU Vice Chair, Hartlepool Mayor Stuart Drummond, who presented the outgoing Chair with a photo montage of images of the Tees Valley.

Said Mayor Drummond “We all owe a debt of gratitude for the role which Hugh has played in laying the foundations of TVU, from its very early days in shadow form, through the development of our Multi Area Agreement with Government and more recently the debates over the future of the area’s economy—and now to the point where it is about to take on a wider role and responsibilities.

“We wish Hugh well for the future and I’m sure that, from both a personal and business view, he will continue to maintain a keen interest in the future of the Tees Valley.”

Mr Anderson, who spent much of his career with ICI—holding senior posts including General Manager of its Teesside Operations and Senior Vice President for Technology—has been involved in a number of regeneration organisations and his current posts include Chairman of Teesside University, Director of the Centre for Process Innovation, Chairman of Digital City, Chairman of Ensus UK and Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Durham. He was awarded the OBE last year for services to the community of the North East.

Mr Anderson said “I am delighted to take on the role of Chairman of Tees Valley Unlimited working with a board drawn from all the corners of the area. The board forms a body of people committed to the advancement and regeneration of the Tees Valley and the attraction of business investment.

“I wish Hugh well and look forward to his ongoing involvement in the Tees Valley.”

Alan Clarke, One North East Chief Executive, said: “Hugh has played the leading role in laying the foundations for Tees Valley Unlimited – he is a passionate advocate of Tees Valley, its businesses and its people.

“I welcome the appointment of Sandy Anderson as chairman to take TVU forward into the next exciting phase of its development, to help tackle the challenges the area faces and to seize the wealth of opportunities the economic recovery is presenting the Tees Valley.”

Pat Ritchie, regional director of the Homes and Communities Agency, added “We look forward to working closely with TVU in its new remit, building on the progress we have made on key regeneration schemes like Middlehaven and Central Park.”

**31/03/10**

**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.co.uk>**

For further information please contact Linda Edworthy, telephone 01642 264908.

