

**Press Release**  
**January 24<sup>th</sup> 2011**

## **FUTURE OF TOURISM ON AGENDA AT WYNYARD**

The future of tourism in Tees Valley is being discussed at an event later this week as visitTeesvalley, the organisation currently involved in its delivery, prepares to close.

Representatives from Tees Valley Unlimited, the local authorities, businesses and other interested organisations will be at Wynyard Hall for the Visitor Economy Networking Event, which will outline how tourist services are to be delivered beyond March this year.

Stephen Catchpole, Managing Director of Tees Valley Unlimited, is speaking at the event. He said the event provides TVU and its partners with an opportunity to hear firsthand what the arrangements will be for future support for businesses within the tourism sector.

“Unfortunately the reduction in funding available to TVU from this point on means that we will only have the resource to provide one transitional post dedicated to tourism activities. However our local authority partners will explain what continued services they intend to provide for the sector.

“I should like to pay tribute to the work of both the Board and staff of visitTeesvalley in conjunction with the sector. Tourism remains a key element in transforming our economy and I see it as an integral part of our regeneration and growth strategies.”

Other speakers at the event are David Kelly, Chairman of visitTeesvalley; Richard Spencer, Director, Partnership Glu Limited; Wendy Benson, Sales and Marketing Director, Rockliffe Hall Hotel, and Mark Rowell, Regeneration Projects Manager, Stockton on Tees Borough Council.

There will also be an opportunity to learn more about the area's Local Enterprise Partnership and the Regional Growth Fund and to question the speakers following their presentations.

The event is being held on Thursday, January 27, from 10.30 am until 12.30 pm.

**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>