

Key Headlines

Business Growth

- The Business Investment team exhibited at the Outsourcing Summit & Expo which was held at the Excel Centre London 17- 18th October. This event included a line-up of speakers from industry leaders providing insights into the technical developments within Business Process Outsourcing sector which will digitally transform the industry using technologies such as automation service delivery and artificial intelligence.

Education, Employment and Skills

- The Routes to Work pilot is now in full implementation stages helping people facing multiple barriers to accessing work. 562 people are engaged with the pilot and 43 people have moved into employment across Tees Valley.
- The evaluation of the Routes to Work Pilot, being delivered by Rocket Science, is in progress and an initial report is due imminently.
- The BME Achievement Awards were held in Middlesbrough on 12th October at which the Combined Authority were proud to support the great businesses that represent this sector.
- The Parliamentary Order allowing the devolution of Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the Tees Valley was debated positively in Parliament on 16th October and in the House of Lords on 24th October. Communication with Mayoral Combined Authorities/Greater London Authority continues regarding the operational approaches.
- Preparation for the formal launch in November of the commissioning process for AEB in the Tees Valley continues.
- On 8th October, the Secretary of State for Education announced Opportunity North East, a proposal to award a significant amount of funding (£24m) to work in partnership with the North East, including Tees Valley, covering the 12 Local Authority areas, to support the improvement of educational outcomes, particularly at Key Stage 4 and Post-16.

Transport & Infrastructure

- The Parkgate pedestrian and cycle bridge is due to be lifted into place, which will improve sustainable transport links between Darlington Station and Central Park. The scheme is jointly funded by Darlington Borough Council and the Combined Authority, as part of the Sustainable Access to Employment Programme. Supporting works will follow and the bridge will be open for public use later in the year.
- This month saw the opening of the Middlehaven Dock Bridge, officially called the Priestman Bridge, by the Riverside Stadium. The project received a £4million contribution from the Combined Authority and will unlock developable land, suitable for investment and help to deliver the objectives of our Strategic Economic Plan.

Culture

- The Combined Authority Culture Strategy (2019 – 2021) is being finalised with input from partners and stakeholders.

Investment

- The Combined Authority Investment team are working with the Tees Valley Management Group to review all current pipeline projects and to develop a draft 10 year strategic investment programme, which will help focus our resources on a set of priority projects and programmes.
- We are currently working with SQW who are the Governments consultants, who will be carrying out impact and progress evaluations on projects receiving devolution funds. A draft evaluation plan is expected in November.

Communication

- A record month for Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE) and reach with significant national and regional media coverage, mainly linked to Brexit and devolution. The Mayor appeared on BBC Two's Daily Politics show and had subsequent follow up articles published in The Express with a reach of more than 25million.

Updates

Research, Development, Innovation and Energy	
Hydrogen	Tees Valley addressed the All Party Parliamentary Group on Hydrogen chaired by Anna Turley MP and explained our continued efforts to build on our hydrogen infrastructure with applications in transport and industry. A report from Northern Gas Network and partners on decarbonising heat across the north is expected to show the contribution Teesside makes to this development.
District Heat	Invitations to tender for professional support for the Middlesbrough District Energy Network are now published and appointments of advisers will take place in early 2019.
Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS)	The Tees Valley cluster met with James Smith Co-Chair of the CCUS Cost Challenge Task Force to explain the benefits and challenges around developing an industrial CCUS cluster and the need for a decision on the pathway to deployment to be taken as soon as possible if our 2050 targets are to be met.
North East Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub & NP11	<p>Energy Strategies and delivery plans are currently being developed in all six LEP areas. Once these plans are completed and approved, projects of mutual interest and benefit will be assessed by the NEYH Energy Hub Board who will make recommendations on how to accelerate the delivery of these projects.</p> <p>The LEP with the Combined Authority is also working with the NP11 group of northern LEPs to define priorities for action across the northern regions in a number of key areas, one of which is energy.</p>

Education, Employment and Skills	
Routes to Work	A workshop was held 9 th October and was attended by RTW employees, DWP and Rocket Science, who are delivering the evaluation of the RTW Pilot. The outcome of the day was successful and a number of success stories were shared. Rocket Science are due to submit their initial report to the Routes to Work Steering Group on 31 st October 2018.
Diversity in Tees 2018 Conference and Employment Fair	<p>The Combined Authority attended this event as an Exhibitor. The conference accommodated a variety of speakers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue Jeffrey – Leader of Redcar and Cleveland Council • Mike Veale – Chief Constable of Cleveland Police • Tony Parkinson – Chief Executive of Middlesbrough Council • Nazir Afzal – Former Crown Chief Prosecutor <p>The conference was followed by an employment fair where the Combined Authority exhibited Apprenticeships, Routes to Work and Teesvalleycareers.com.</p>
Apprenticeships	<p>Newcastle Building Society and Caterpillar engaged in events with the Combined Authority to promote apprenticeships to large businesses. We facilitated round table discussions with employers around the topic of creating and progressing apprenticeships and also myth busting to encourage the creation of apprenticeships in the region. This work will continue to help shape the future support to employers to create more apprenticeships.</p> <p>A meeting was recently hosted by the Department for Education to discuss how LEPs and Combined Authorities can work with employers to access their unutilised</p>

	<p>employer levy. Further research by DfE and the ESFA will be undertaken and shared with the Combined Authority to inform and consider further what joint approaches would support employers to create more apprenticeships.</p>
<p>CITB – Tees Valley Construction Sector Forum</p>	<p>This is a new employer forum aimed at bringing together local construction companies and give them an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the findings of research to consider developing opportunities that will lead to longer term development and economic growth • Identify current and future contract/project pipelines and potential procurement opportunities • Discuss the employment and skills agenda, including careers engagement and possible opportunities to influence the skills and training landscape • Raise awareness of different funding streams, collaborative partnership working and business support within the Tees Valley • Communicate what is going on in the Tees Valley from guest speakers, providers who deliver construction training, stakeholders and each other • Provide a forum in which to do business, network, share good practice and receive regular updates. <p>The Combined Authority gave a presentation on the role that it has in the region and how they can work with us, how we can support them, on current and future planned construction projects and the investment that the Combined Authority has made in the region. The feedback from the event was very positive and a further session has been organised for January.</p>
<p>US Embassy visit</p>	<p>Kim Dubois, Cultural Attaché from the American Embassy, visited the region on 25th - 26th September. The team arranged for her to visit local schools/colleges where she gave a presentation that included the role that the embassy has in the UK, the electoral process in the USA and the structure of their government. Kim also discussed how students from Tees Valley can apply for scholarships to study or visit the USA. She visited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior Pursglove • Stockton Sixth Form College • Hartlepool Sixth Form College • Darlington College • Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College <p>Kim is very keen to work with Tees Valley schools to take forward further joint working to raise knowledge of future opportunities for young people.</p>
<p>Adult Education Budget (AEB) Devolution</p>	<p>Work has continued throughout the summer to raise awareness of the forthcoming AEB devolution proposals. Intensive consultation has taken place to ensure that the implementation of this funding supports sustainability of training providers and the continued provision of a quality offer of learning to Tees Valley learners. The commissioning policies and process are being finalised and will be launched shortly, information will be available on the Combined Authority's website at: https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/skills-employment/adult-education-budget/</p>
<p>Opportunity North East</p>	<p>The Combined Authority and the five Local Authorities are working with the Department of Education to influence the recently announced "Opportunity North East". This programme will aim to tackle issues that are holding young people back from achieving their ambitions, raise the number of students attending the country's top Universities or inspiring them to access education, employment and training post-year 11.</p> <p>The scheme will see £12m invested in targeted approaches to improve the transition from primary to secondary school, drive up standards at secondary level and improve outcomes for pupils post 16. A further £12m will be used to boost early career training</p>

	<p>for new teachers, help improve the quality of teaching and raise standards in the region's secondary schools.</p> <p>The programme will see secondary schools, and colleges work to encourage young people to consider university, degree apprenticeships and other high quality technical education options, while partnering with local businesses to improve job prospects for young people across the region.</p>
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Culture	
Destination Marketing	<p>We are working with TFM Radio to do an online Christmas Advert Calendar, which will run throughout December and offer prizes from across Tees Valley.</p> <p>Offstone Publishers are in the process of contacting tourism businesses for inclusion in an Enjoy Tees Valley Mini Guide – due for distribution in Feb/Mar 2019.</p> <p>The first meeting of the tourism specific communications group will take place on 13th November.</p> <p>Work is on-going with the Visit Britain and Visit England PR team to give Tees Valley larger presence on its websites and media opportunities.</p> <p>RSPB Saltholme was included in <i>The Telegraph 25 half term days out that won't cost a penny</i> feature and Skinningrove Bonfire due to appear on Telegraph Online <i>Best UK Bonfire festivals</i> feature, both of which were opportunities identified by the Combined Authority.</p> <p>A consumer newsletter rounding up autumn events and things to do in Tees Valley was issued on the 18th October.</p>
Rugby League World Cup 2021	<p>Further to confirmation in August 2018 that the Rugby League World Cup 2021 bid has progressed from applicant stage to candidate stage, a revised bid was submitted on October 12th. Host and Venue Contract documents are currently being considered.</p>
Tourism Industry Engagement	<p>The next Tourism Industry social event will be held on Tuesday 13th November at the Mercure Hotel in Darlington. Over 40 businesses have registered so far, presentation topics will include: The Explorers Road and City Of Culture.</p> <p>The third Industry News e-newsletter has been issued this week. This is a monthly platform issued to all known tourism businesses in Tees Valley.</p> <p>Enjoy Tees Valley attended the Group Leisure & Tourism Show in October with stand-partners from Tees Valley hotels and attractions.</p>
Tourism Product Development	<p>Visit England funded project 'The Explorer's Road' (formerly East of England Touring Route) is progressing quickly. A photographer was in Tees Valley on Friday 21st September to photograph key sites for inclusion in the campaign. The project will be covered fully at the next Industry Social event on November 13th.</p> <p>Exploratory work has started to consider reinvigorating the Captain Cook Discovery Trail. Based upon the pre-existing route but with the addition of NMRN Hartlepool and the HM Bark Endeavour replica, Whitby.</p>
Great Place Tees Valley	<p>Feedback from the Great Place National team visit was positive, thanks to valuable contributions from project partners.</p> <p>Great Place partners in Redcar & Cleveland led a community consultation event in South Bank, to develop a new community artwork on the Black Path. ARC Stockton</p>

	<p>commenced two new training programmes (one in partnership with Middlesbrough Town Hall), for local artists to develop new skills for working in communities.</p> <p>July- September 2018 quarterly monitoring and reporting is underway.</p>
City of Culture 2025	<p>Pilots have been commissioned and are now underway to inform the development on The Big Conversation programme of engagement. Nine pilots will be delivered in total, exploring effective ways of engaging people in the following contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Realm • Children & Young People • Workplaces • Diversity & Equality <p>The pilots will generate key insights into effective methodologies; necessary partnerships; and data capture by generating responses to the first Big Question: 'Who Are You?' This learning will inform the framework and approach to delivering the wider programme throughout 2019 / 2020.</p> <p>A working group is being established to prepare for the public launch of The Big Conversation in Spring 2019. Part of the focus of this group will be the development of an effective online engagement strategy.</p>
Cultural Strategy	<p>Work is ongoing to finalise a new Cultural Strategy to guide Combined Authority investment, activity and partnership working which will create the conditions for cultural prosperity through 2019 – 2021.</p>

Investment	
European Funding	<p>ERDF</p> <p>Projects formally contracted have a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) value of £38.1m. The current pipeline is £32m with a minimum requirement for c£13m match from these proposals.</p> <p>4 new calls for ERDF activity were launched on 5th October with a closing date of 23rd November.</p> <p>Calls are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA1 Innovation - £4.8m • PA2 ICT - £1.1m • PA3 SME Competitiveness - £28m • PA4 Low Carbon - £5.9m <p>A Launch Event took place for each call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation – 9th October 9-10.30am – 5 attendees • ICT – 9th October 1-2.30pm – 2 attendees • SME Competitiveness – 12th October 1-2.30pm – 8 attendees • Low Carbon – 11th October 9.30-12pm – 5 attendees <p>One to one sessions have now been made available to any organisation with a potential project idea.</p>
Apprenticeship Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date we have received 271 applications of which 180 are eligible for funding. • 38 are from priority sector companies eligible for the £2,500 grant, 142 are from small employers who are eligible for the smaller grant. • 61 applications were ineligible for support - main reasons are age of apprentice, number of Company employees for Grant B, length of trading.

- We have 13 applications pending further information being received (all Grant B).
- 17 employers withdrew their applications as the apprentices have left, prior to the 13 week stage.
- The scheme is continuing until 31st December 2018, to date we have committed £237,000 (£95,000 for Grant A and £142,000 for Grant B), we have paid a total of £109,500 (£60,000 for Grant A and £49,500 for Grant B).
- We have also included a 'Payment by Exception' to Middlesbrough College, to support some ex Carillion Apprentices, this was approved by Delegated Decision and the payment of £22,947.01 was made on 3rd October 2018.

A paper is to be presented to Cabinet in November regarding revisions to the scheme.

Communication

Communication Activity this month

Media & Comms Statistics

Media:

Media Releases issued:	11
Media hits/article:	493
Tone of coverage:	91% positive/neutral in sentiment
AVE:	£5.793million (highest we've ever achieved in a month)
Reach:	556million

Websites:

	TVCA	STDC
Website hits	6.9k	1,336
Page views	22k	3.3k
New visitors	4k	938

Twitter:

	TVCA
Tweets	37
Impressions	65.7k
New Followers	83↑ (6,857)

LinkedIn:

	TVCA	STDC
Impressions	34k	3.8k
New Followers	233↑ (3,131)	45↑ (757)
New Likes	430	88

Releases included:

- [Mayor Launches £40million District Heating Project In A Bid To Save Hospital Money On Energy Bills](#)
- [Engineering Firms To Benefit From "Biggest And Best" Business Breakfast](#)
- [£24million Government Investment To Benefit The Tees Valley](#)
- [Clarification On Cabinet Meeting 28 September](#)
- [Mayor Houchen Visits Tees Valley Company To Assist In Moving Forward In Business](#)
- [Silicon Valley 3d Print Specialists Use Tees Valley Firm As First Uk Production Partner](#)
- [Tees Valley Cycle Schemes Awarded £275,000](#)
- [Devolution Of £30.5million Adult Education Budget Moves Closer For Tees](#)

Valley

- [150 Telecoms Jobs Available! Mayor Urges Local Workers To Apply](#)
- [Tees Leaders Welcome Liberty's Groundbreaking £10million Metals Project](#)
- [Mayors Join Forces Urging Government To Fund Regional Priorities Post-Brexit](#)

Stakeholder engagement:

- Met with the Department for International Trade (DIT) to discuss partnership opportunities. Presented Talking Up Tees Valley and DIT have committed to incorporate the narrative.
- Attended inaugural meeting of Generation for Change (G4C). New construction networking initiative for Tees Valley. Discussed Talking Up Tees Valley and seeking avenues to grow exposure of the initiative through their platform.
- Mayoral visits arranged to Sapere Software, Paragon Rapid Technologies and MAP Group.
- Worked with Darlington Borough Council to hold a Tees Engineering Network, over 120 people attended to hear from Hitachi Rail, ISG and Cleveland Bridge – very positive feedback received.
- Continuing to work with Change & Transformation on values and behaviours of the Combined Authority. A number of meetings held with Leaders, Chief Executives, the LEP, South Tees Development Corporation and Combined Authority Officers.
- Arranging the Combined Authority's first Away Day that will take place on the 6th November.

Marketing:

- Communications & Marketing Team presented an overview of their day-to-day responsibilities and updated all staff with their current projects at an all staff team meeting.
- The Talking Up Tees Valley initiative was 'launched' internally and a narrative pyramid was given to each member of staff. A number of meetings arranged with the business community, roller banners and collateral are in development.
- A communications plan is being developed for TeesValleyCareers.com with a view to launch in January 2019.
- Continuing to actively roll out the realigned Invest in Tees Valley brand, new brochures produced for Professional Services, Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering.
- Routes to Work marketing collateral has been produced and distributed to the local authorities and a guide has been shared for consistent application of the brand across the five local authorities.
- Updating marketing collateral for the Enterprise Adviser Network, including job descriptions, leaflets and application forms etc.
- Working on a roll out of TeesValleyCareers.com careers guides to be distributed to circa 26,000 students. Nearing completion and will be distributed early November.
- Exhibited at the Outsourcing Summit Expo on October 17th/18th. Advanced Engineering show taking place 30th October/1st November. Suitable collateral for the stand has been created.
- Sponsoring and exhibiting at Offshore Wind week (8th November) and the Entrepreneurs Forum (8th November). Relevant collateral currently being pulled together.
- New stationery templates being developed for Microsoft Office programmes to professionalise the presentation of work and improve consistency of the brand application for the Combined Authority.

Digital and Social Media:

- Continue to develop the new Tees Valley Combined Authority corporate website www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk. A new Cookie and Privacy Policy has been

introduced and uploaded.

- Developing an online portal with an interactive form to manage the submission of applications to the Adult Education Budget, planning to launch post cabinet in November.
- Uploading content to the new Invest in Tees Valley website and testing the platform, expecting to launch in the next couple of weeks.