

## Key Headlines

### Business Growth

- The Combined Authority will attend the JEC World (Paris) event, the largest international composites trade show event in Europe from 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- Working in partnership with the Department for International Trade's (DIT) Northern Powerhouse, the Combined Authority will attend the United Kingdom Pavilion to help showcase the Tees Valley offer for composites.

### Research, Development, Innovation and Energy

- The Combined Authority was successful in bid for funding for deployment of Hydrogen vehicles in early 2020.
- The Combined Authority hosted visit from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) team looking at support for Decarbonisation Mission across UK clusters.
- The Combined Authority are joining a panel advising on selection of industrial clusters for CCS deployment.
- The Local Energy Hub project identification is progressing with Local Authorities.

### Education, Employment and Skills

- The Combined Authority has received confirmation that the devolved Adult Education Budget for Academic Year 2019/20 from the Department for Education on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 is £29,446,518.

### Transport & Infrastructure

- Transport for the North published its Strategic Transport Plan (STP) on 11<sup>th</sup> February. The STP is accompanied by an Investment Programme up to 2050.

### Culture

- The Railway Heritage Quarter Masterplan and the Stockton and Darlington Railway Interpretation Plans public consultation has been completed in February, with results being used to inform the interpretation and masterplan work.
- The Great North CityGames Tees Valley were launched on the 12<sup>th</sup> February. The event will take place in Stockton in September 2019.

## Investment

- A draft of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Local Assurance Framework has been circulated to the Local Authority Chief Executives and Leaders for consultation. The framework will be subject to approval by Cabinet at their March meeting.

## Communication

- The team arranged a consumer PR launch for the Great North CityGames with Brendan Foster, Richard Kilty and Chris Tomlinson. The launch generated significant local media coverage and performed well on social media channels.
- We are currently developing a new website for TeesValleyCareers.com that is tailored to the different audiences. It is focused at serving teachers, students, parents and carers with careers guidance and advice. A separate section of the site seeks to generate business leads and increase the exposure of the businesses involved. It will be launched during the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> March, which is National Careers Week.

# Updates

<b>Business Growth</b>	
<b>JEC World</b>	The Combined Authority will attend the JEC World (Paris) event from 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> March 2019 inclusive. JEC World is the largest international composites trade show event in Europe, with 1,300 exhibitors and 43,000 visitors. The event provides a key opportunity to build relations with industry players, understand technology trends and explore market demand.
<b>United Kingdom Pavilion</b>	Working in partnership with the Department for International Trade's (DIT) Northern Powerhouse, the Combined Authority will attend the United Kingdom Pavilion to help showcase the Tees Valley offer for composites. Tees Valley has a targeted proposition for carbon fibre manufacture, based around our chemistry and materials expertise, paralleled by a strong utilities and operating environment. We are currently working with DIT to help target our composites proposition at key players and to create a strong programme of pre-arranged meetings with carbon fibre producers at this key composites event.

<b>Research, Development, Innovation and Energy</b>	
<b>CCUS</b>	<p>Engagement continues with the CCSA and the Cost Challenge task force meaning that we are part of group seeking to advise on initial cluster for CCS deployment.</p> <p>The Combined Authority brought a BEIS &amp; Innovate UK team to Tees Valley to judge support for the net zero cluster idea and for the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. Local industry reinforced the need for stable and committed policy.</p>
<b>Hydrogen</b>	<p>The Combined Authority was successful in bid for funding for deployment of Hydrogen vehicles in early 2020. We await details of offer.</p> <p>Increased engagement is being undertaken with national and regional programmes including H21 and Hy4Heat is being made to support case for Tees Valley role in deployment.</p>
<b>Local Energy</b>	Progress on identifying deliverable projects with Local Authorities continues. Recruitment of a Programme Manager was unsuccessful and will be re-advertised soon.

<b>Education, Employment and Skills</b>	
<b>Adult Education Budget (AEB)</b>	<p>The Combined Authority received final confirmation from the Department for Education (DfE) on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 of the devolved Adult Education Budget for Academic Year 2019/20 of £29,446,518.</p> <p>The commissioning process for the delivery of Adult Skills provision for all providers who are seeking to secure a funding award to deliver adult skills</p>

	<p>to Tees Valley residents from the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019, closed on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019. There were 52 Provider Delivery Plans submitted to the Combined Authority AEB on-line portal and the appraisal of those plans is underway.</p> <p>Officers from the Combined Authority's Adult Education Team continue to meet with officers from DfE, ESFA and other Mayoral Combined Authorities to ensure that shared systems and operational approaches are in place for the 2019/20 academic year.</p>
<b>Routes to Work</b>	<p>The Tees Valley Routes to Work (RTW) continues to support long term unemployed people towards gaining work, with 968 Tees Valley Residents engaged with the programme. To date, 86 people have gained employment through RTW.</p> <p>On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, officers from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) visited the Tees Valley Routes to Work programme. The aim of their visit was to discuss Routes to Work post implementation and see first-hand the Pilot in delivery. Feedback from the DWP officers was extremely positive, stating they had gained a huge amount from the visit. They have extended their thanks to all partners involved for taking the time to meet with them and provide informative feedback.</p>
<b>Skills Advisory Panels</b>	<p>Following the launch of guidance by the Department for Education (DfE) in December, the Combined Authority were required to consider its response to the guidance, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and how it may set the governance of a Tees Valley Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) and define its function. In response to DfE, the Combined Authority outlined that the proposed model for Tees Valley would be that the existing Education, Employment and Skills Partnership Board, chaired by Cllr Akers-Belcher, Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet Member for Education, Employment &amp; Skills, take on the role and function of the Tees Valley Skills Advisory Panel.</p>
<b>European Social Fund</b>	<p><b>Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) ESF Procurement Round 2 (Procurement of Contracts April 2019 to July 2021)</b></p> <p>The procurement process for the new ESF programme of skills funding, under the four Investment Priorities listed below, match funded by ESFA via the opt-in arrangement has completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment Priority 1.1 Skills Support for the Unemployed</li> <li>• Investment Priority 1.2 NEET</li> <li>• Investment Priority 1.4 Community Grants</li> <li>• Investment Priority 2.1 Skills Support for the Workforce</li> </ul> <p>It is anticipated that delivery will commence from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Further information on these programmes will be posted on the Combined Authority's website once available.</p> <p><b>Direct Bid Open Calls</b></p> <p>Work is underway to develop Direct Bid Open Calls. Tees Valley ESIF Sub-Committee at their recent meeting in January, approved the proposed</p>

	<p>approach to the development of Open Calls - which will look to commit £17.6m of unallocated ESF across three Investment Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment Priority 1.1 Access to Employment for Jobseekers and Inactive People</li> <li>• Investment Priority 2.1 Enhancing Equal Access to Lifelong Learning</li> <li>• Investment Priority 2.2 Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems</li> </ul> <p>The Combined Authority is working with DWP, the Managing Authority, to develop the calls and agree a timetable to launch the calls, which is anticipated to be throughout Spring and early Summer 2019.</p>
<p><b>Apprenticeships</b></p>	<p><b>National Apprenticeship Week 2019</b>  As part of National Apprenticeship Week (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March 2019), the Combined Authority and the North East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network, in partnership with the Federation of Small Businesses, have an exciting opportunity for Tees Valley businesses.</p> <p>Two employer breakfasts are being held at venues in Tees Valley on the Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The events, which are being delivered by businesses with a track record in apprenticeships, will provide attendees with the opportunity to hear first-hand about the benefits that apprentices can bring to their business; the process involved in finding, recruiting and managing an apprentice, the support available and grants to help them financially.</p> <p>The businesses will talk about their personal experiences of apprenticeships and about what is key to having a successful apprenticeship experience, both for the employer and the apprentice. A number of apprentices will also be at the events to share their experiences on becoming and being an apprentice. The event will also provide the opportunity to ask questions and to be able to share experiences with other employers.</p> <p><b>Apprenticeship Levy Survey</b>  The Government announced plans to engage with business and providers on the development of apprenticeships post-2020. The Education &amp; Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has released a survey as part of this engagement, which is open to all apprenticeship employers, providers and representative organisations: <a href="https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/3H8UN/">https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/3H8UN/</a></p>
<p><b>Enterprise Advisor Network</b></p>	<p>The <a href="https://www.teesvalleycareers.com">Teesvalleycareers.com</a> coordinators are working to target 1,000 businesses from all sectors and of all sizes to work with schools and colleges. To date, there are 270 businesses engaged.</p> <p>If you would like to get involved in this work and are interested in becoming a business Enterprise Adviser, please contact us on the following email address: <a href="mailto:join@teesvalleycareers.com">join@teesvalleycareers.com</a></p> <p>The Tees Valley Enterprise Coordinators continue to work with 67 of the 70 education establishments in Tees Valley. These include secondary</p>

	<p>schools, special schools, sixth forms and further education colleges. Of the education establishments, 50 now have a business Enterprise Adviser working directly with the Careers Lead in the establishment, to develop meaningful encounters with employers for all students.</p> <p><b>Educational support</b> The Combined Authority’s Careers Team continues to offer professional development sessions for educational establishments and the wider community including school and college Governors. For more information, please <a href="#">contact one of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Enterprise Coordinators</a>.</p>
<b>Careers</b>	<p><b>National Careers Week 2019</b> National Careers Week will take place 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> March, coinciding with National Apprenticeship Week. Many of the schools and colleges are working in collaboration with the Combined Authority’s Careers Team across the Tees Valley and are undertaking events for National Careers Week including mock interviews, career talks and assemblies. The Careers Team are working to develop a programme of events and are planning to send specific resources, linking to the Gatsby Benchmarks, to every school/college on each day of that week.</p>

<b>Transport &amp; Infrastructure</b>	
<b>TfN’s Strategic Transport Plan</b>	<p>Transport for the North (TfN) published its first Strategic Transport Plan (STP) at a launch event in Sheffield on 11<sup>th</sup> February. The STP outlines the need for investment in transport across the North and identifies the priority areas for improved connectivity.</p> <p>The objectives of the Strategic Transport Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transforming economic performance</li> <li>• Increasing efficiency, reliability, integration, and resilience in the transport system</li> <li>• Improving inclusivity, health, and access to opportunities for all</li> <li>• Promoting and enhancing the built, historic, and natural environment</li> </ul> <p>The key areas of delivery are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rail – Northern Powerhouse Rail and Long Term Rail Strategy</li> <li>• Road – Major Road Network for the North</li> <li>• Smart – Integrated and Smart Travel</li> <li>• Local and Sustainable Transport</li> </ul> <p>The STP is accompanied by a 30-year Investment Programme which comprises TfN’s advice to the Government on what the long term, multimodal transport priorities are across the North. All the Tees Valley’s stated strategic transport priorities for road and rail are recognised in the TfN Investment Programme.</p>

Culture	
<b>Railway Heritage</b>	The Railway Heritage Quarter Masterplan and the Stockton and Darlington Railway Interpretation Plans are continuing with their delivery programmes. Public consultation exercises for the interpretation plan have been carried out in February half term at Locomotion, Shildon, Preston Park, Stockton-On-Tees and the Head of Steam, Darlington with an online survey capturing people's views. Results will be used to inform the plans as they are developed.
<b>City of Culture</b>	<b>The Big Conversation:</b> Zest Theatre will begin work across Tees Valley next month to engage approximately 500 young people in a Research & Development process to inform their new show 'Youthquake'. Working in each of the 5 areas, young people will be encouraged to share their experiences, ideas, ambitions and concerns – all of which will be recorded as part of The Big Conversation. The resulting show will tour to partner venues across the region in January 2020, with a potential audience capacity of 4,500 across the tour, creating wider opportunities for engagement with The Big Conversation. To ensure local voices are amplified, 20 young people from each of the 5 areas will perform alongside the professional cast when the show visits their town.
<b>Destination Marketing</b>	The launch of <a href="#">Great North CityGames</a> on the 12 <sup>th</sup> February received significant regional and online coverage. Entries are now open for Great Tees 10k, Junior and Mini runs.  The first Tees Valley mini-guide is due to go to print in March – to be distributed across Tees Valley, North East and Yorkshire ahead of the Easter holidays.

Investment	
<b>Apprenticeship Support for Employer Grants:</b>	<p><b>Apprenticeship Support for Employer Grants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To date we have received 336 applications of which 225 are eligible for funding.</li> <li>• 46 are from priority sector companies eligible for the £2,500 grant. 179 are from small employers who are eligible for the smaller grant.</li> <li>• 74 applications were ineligible for support - main reasons are age of apprentice, number of Company employees for Grant B, length of trading.</li> <li>• We have 11 applications pending further information being received.</li> <li>• 26 employers withdrew their applications as the apprentices have left, prior to the 13-week stage.</li> </ul> <p><b>The New Apprenticeship Support for Employers Grant:</b> The grant is available for apprentices starting their apprenticeship from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The scheme provides an initial grant for each level, with an additional payment for companies which progress their apprentice through their apprenticeship, from level 3 upwards. Further information on the scheme is available on the <a href="#">Combined Authority website</a>.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To date we have received 13 applications, of which 10 are eligible for funding.</li> <li>• 7 are for Grant A (all for £2,000).</li> <li>• 3 are for Grant B (all for £500).</li> <li>• No progression grant applications.</li> <li>• We have 2 applications pending further information being received.</li> <li>• 1 employer has withdrawn their application as the apprentices have left prior to the 13-week stage.</li> </ul>
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## Communication

### Communication Activity this month

#### Media & Communication Statistics

##### Media:

<b>Media Releases issued:</b>	8
<b>Media hits/article:</b>	413
<b>Tone of coverage:</b>	80.1% positive or neutral
<b>AVE:</b>	£1.13million
<b>Reach:</b>	126.56million

##### Websites:

	TVCA	STDC
Website hits	6.9k	1.2k
Page views	30.1k	4.2k
New visitors	5.7k	1k

##### Twitter:

	TVCA
Tweets	27
Impressions	59.4k
New Followers	55↑ (7,237)

##### LinkedIn:

	TVCA	STDC
Impressions	94.3k	6.4k
New followers	316↑ (3,994)	20↑ (898)
New likes	1,339	118

**Media coverage highlights:**

- A deal for half of all developable land at the STDC, achieved front page of both regional newspapers and was the main story on BBC Tees breakfast.

**Releases included:**

- [Government Confirms £29.5million Tees Valley Adult Education Budget](#)
- [Tees Valley Wins £1.3million Project To Bring Hydrogen Vehicles To The Region](#)
- [Top Athletes Get Tees Valley's Great North CityGames Off The Starting Blocks](#)
- [Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage – Come Have Your Say!](#)
- [Engineering The Future After Scooping Apprentice Of The Year](#)
- [Mayor Visits Successful Tees Valley Family Opticians](#)
- [Confirmed: Deal Signed Off To Secure Half Of All Developable Land On Former Redcar Steelworks Site](#)
- [Mayor Hails Success Of Tees Valley Manufacturing Firm](#)

**Stakeholder engagement:**

- The Combined Authority arranged and facilitated the Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage video with Cllr Wallis and Darlington Borough Council Communications Team. This action was part of the agreed Communications Plan for the Tees Valley Investment Plan, which set out the Combined Authority Communications Team supporting the individual £20million Local Authority projects.
- We participated in an event about promoting “deliberative democracy” in Tees Valley. This was organised by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA). The keynote speaker was the BBC’s Head of Local News Partnerships, Matthew Barraclough, who is responsible for the local democracy reporters’ initiative.
- Met with two Associate Deans from Teesside University, to discuss perception and reputational issues for Tees Valley.
- Met the PD Ports’ Head of Communications & Marketing to discuss ways of Talking Up Tees Valley through the new collateral.
- Presented the Talking Up Tees Valley narrative and initiative to Communications lead at Nifco and looked at partnership opportunities for maximising exposure of the scheme.
- Met with the PR & Marketing Manager of Communicate Technology and Director of Tees Valley Business Club, to present Talking Up Tees Valley and to seek additional exposure opportunities for the initiative through their channels.
- Continuing to work closely with Hartlepool Borough Council to research ways of featuring the Talking Up Tees Valley narrative at Hartlepool Train Station.
- Mayoral visits supported during February include: Mellis Eyecare, Dormor Machine Engineering and Primary Engineering Awards.

**Communications & Marketing:**

- Invites for a VIP launch at Riverside Stadium on the 13<sup>th</sup> March have been distributed, further public consultation events have been arranged in the Tees Valley local authority areas. A brochure, banners and questionnaires are also being developed.
- Supporting the Skills Team with their annual event which will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Teesside University.
- Preparations are underway for the annual Tees Valley Business Summit, which will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> July at Teesside University. This has now been launched and invitations to exhibit have been sent out. More business focussed this year with local business and stakeholders being invited to take seminar spots.
- Developing a Marketing Strategy for the South Tees Development Corporation, regarding a future marketing strategy.
- Working closely with the South Tees Development Corporation to refresh sections of the Master Plan to reflect changing conditions – for example securing the £29.5million for the Adult Education Budget, acquisition of the Airport and Tata land.
- Working with Hays recruitment to finalise a job advertisement and online microsite for STDC and STDC CEO recruitment process.
- Arrangements underway to attend MIPIM in March 2019. Neal Smith and David Allison will be attending on behalf of the STDC. Numerous meetings arranged with investment intermediaries.

**Digital and Social Media:**

- Adult Education Budget commissioning process has now closed, and we are now looking to further develop the portal to feedback to successful applicants.
- A social media plan for purdah is being worked on, to ensure we can maintain regular posting and engagement across our digital channels.
- Continue to develop the new Tees Valley Combined Authority corporate website: [www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk](http://www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk)