

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting15th March 2007

1. Title of Item/Report

Tees Valley Unlimited

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that set out the new governance arrangements for Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU), the proposed joint working arrangements for local authorities in the Tees Valley and their partners, which would replace the existing Tees Valley Partnership arrangements.

The report set out the principals, which would guide the operation of Tees Valley Unlimited, including the terms of reference composition and accountability arrangements. It also includes an outline implementation programme.

The proposed structure for Tees Valley Unlimited was provided to Members as an appendix to the report. It was based around a leadership board with officer support and a number of sub boards dealing with the areas of planning and economic strategy, transport, employment and skills, housing and tourism. The timescales for implementation were detailed.

It was explained that there were a number of key principles which underlayed the Tees Valley Unlimited proposals. These were:-

Subsidiarity

It was important to recognise Tees Valley Unlimited would deal with issues which could be dealt with by Tees Valley Unlimited at a city region level to improve the economic performance of the Tees Valley.

Partnership

It was envisaged that Tees Valley Unlimited was a partnership coordinating activities across the Tees Valley appropriate to a city region level. It was not proposed, at least in the first year, for the local authorities to delegate any powers to Tees Valley Unlimited. As

progress was made on developing the work of the Boards, and where the partners agreed it would be sensible, it may be necessary to delegate powers, but at least for the first year of operation, this was not expected to be the case. Minutes of the Leadership Board would be reported through Cabinet to ensure a decision trail.

Joint Strategy Committee

Tees Valley Unlimited effectively took over the function of the Joint Strategy Committee. There would need to be a process put in train to wind up the JSC .

Voting

There was an issue over where it was appropriate for the local authority members to have a vote and where all members of the Board could vote. In certain cases where there was local authority statutory functions e.g. a response to the Regional Spatial Strategy, Transport it was proposed that only local authority members could vote. In other areas such as economic development, all members could vote. There was a concern that unless partners could vote on non-statutory matters, they would feel unable to influence policy .

Accountable Body

The Multi Area Agreement between the five local authorities and ONE, the Regional Housing Board /DCLG and DfT would need to be ratified by each of the authorities. One authority would act as accountable body for the resources set out in the multi area agreement.

LSP

The link with Stockton Renaissance would be via the Leaders position on the Leadership Board and the Renaissance Partnership.

RESOLVED that the governance proposals and the implementation timetable set out in the report be endorsed.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To allow Stockton Borough Council to play a full and active role in the new partnership arrangements for the Tees Valley.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in this item as he served on the Tourism Partnership.

6. Details of any Dispensations

None

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday 23rd March 2007.

Proper Officer
19 March 2007