

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting22nd May 2008

1. Title of Item/Report

Tees Valley Multi Area Agreement

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented the draft Multi Area Agreement (MAA) prepared by the Council, together with the other Tees Valley Authorities, One NorthEast (ONE) and Government Office for the North East (GONE). It was explained that MAAs were first highlighted in the Local Government White Paper in October 2006, and the Tees Valley MAA would be one of the first of its kind in the country, representing a trailblazing form of city regional devolution for areas outside of the core cities.

Members were advised that the MAA was the mechanism by which the place-making elements of the City Region Business Case, prepared in September 2006, would be implemented. It covered regeneration, housing and transport projects, as these were critical to economic development, and one of the strengths of the Tees Valley proposal was the ability to join together the currently separate investment streams with confidence that Government Departments would together provide the necessary backing in a timely manner.

It was suggested that, given the importance of this issue, an all Member Seminar be arranged

Members of Cabinet were provided with a copy of the draft MAA.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contents of the draft MAA as presented be endorsed and that the Chief Executive and Senior Officers be authorised to negotiate the final version of the MAA, in line with this endorsement, with Central Government by the end of June 2008.
2. An all Member seminar be arranged on this issue.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The reasons for this recommendation are:

a) To date, the development of the MAA has raised the profile of the Tees Valley within Central Government, and being the first area to sign an agreed MAA would be a major coup for the Council and its Partners.

b) The financial freedoms and flexibilities negotiated through the MAA are unique to the Tees Valley and present a real opportunity to ensure that our large scale investment priorities get delivered more efficiently and cost effectively.

c) The MAA secures a longer term funding commitment to an agreed programme of investment across the Tees Valley, based on current funding envelopes, whilst providing the opportunity for the Council to benefit directly from any cost efficiencies arising.

d) The MAA is entirely complementary to the Council's new LAA, putting in place the economic infrastructure to enable other investments in working neighbourhoods, education and health to happen earlier than would otherwise have been the case. It also helps the delivery of a range of the Council's core strategies, in particular its Community Strategy.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal non prejudicial interest in this item as he served on the Regional Development Agency Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

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

Not later than Midnight on Monday 2 June 2008

Proper Officer
27 May 2008