

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROPOSED COMBINED AUTHORITY**

### **Terms of Reference**

The Combined Authority, and the Joint Committee before it should we need one, would have the following terms of reference and delegated powers:-

**NB the Terms of Reference are still draft and subject to development and further consideration through the Working Group.**

### **Economic Development**

- Prepare, monitor and review the Tees Valley-level economic strategy (Statement of Ambition, Investment Plan, Business Plan, Action Plans etc) for approval by each of the Member Authorities
- Undertake economic assessment, research and provide an evidence base for economic strategy at the Tees Valley level and at the Borough level.
- Prepare and submit policy responses to consultations that impact on the economy of the Tees Valley
- Develop and manage interventions, projects and programmes which respond to the economic strategy of the Tees Valley
- Prepare and submit funding bids for interventions, projects and programmes which respond to economic strategy at a Tees Valley level.
- Be responsible for ensuring that core business advisory services are available to SMEs across the Tees Valley, with additional business support services being delivered, in consultation with the Local Authorities, to meet each Borough's individual sector priorities.

**The Combined Authority would approve the Tees Valley-level economic strategy (comprising e.g. the Statement of Ambition, Investment Plan, Business Plan, Action Plans etc).**

**The constituent Local Authorities would, in the interests of each of their respective administrative areas, provide such input into the preparation of the economic strategy as may be required.**

**The Combined Authority would approve the submission of responses to consultations.**

**The constituent Local Authorities would provide such input as may be required to support such preparation and submission.**

**The Combined Authority would approve the submission of funding bids.**

**The Constituent Councils would provide any necessary support for the preparation of such bids.**

**The local authorities would continue to prepare and agree their own economic development and regeneration strategies and plans as they wish, for the delivery of locally elected members' ambitions. These plans and those of the Combined Authority should be consistent and mutually complementary**

### **Employment and Skills**

- Take a lead role in relation to Employment and Skills policy initiatives.
  - Lead on activities to drive the TVU Employment Skills Advisory Group.
  - Lead activities to develop the Tees Valley Employment, Learning and Skills Framework and encourage implementation across the five Local Authority areas.
  - Influence high level content of the DWP Work Programme and FE provision.
  - Develop links and Employment and Skills policy alignment with 14-19 activities.
  - Influence DWP prime provider performance through attending regular reviews and ensuring that TVU priorities are fed through to delivery programmes, and on a borough level depending on need.
  - Engage with DWP providers/employers on the ground to facilitate closer working between partners and create additional/sustainable job opportunities across the Tees Valley.
  - Provide intelligence to providers (including primary and secondary schools) on future skills and labour market requirements, aligned to the growth plan whilst working with colleagues and other learning providers to develop a more labour market focus to their delivery, share emerging markets and skills sector knowledge
  - Work with partners to join up the employer offer across Tees Valley and link with similar regional/local aims to provide dedicated access points for employers (via websites and key contacts).
  - Coordinated the production of Tees Valley materials and resources to support and develop aspirations and choice, working closely with all partners.
  - Co-ordinate a sub-regional network of key partners/providers to manage co-ordinated employer support for multiple vacancies etc.
  - Work with employers, Sector Skills Councils etc to develop/facilitate sector focussed training opportunities linked to areas of future growth in the labour market.
  - Ensure that employment and worklessness initiatives are effectively targeted at those farthest from the labour market.
- Ensures that local and national initiatives are coordinated into a coherent programme of support for young people, adult learners and employers
- Work with partners/key employers to develop more structured opportunities for unemployed people to access jobs.

## **Business Investment**

- Undertake business engagement and support including SMEs in consultation with the Local Authorities.
- Develop and approve a strategy and action plans for work of Tees Valley level significance in relation to:
  - Investment by both UK and foreign owned companies
  - Relocation into the Tees Valley from another UK source
  - Investment for the first time by non-UK companies
  - Exporting by Tees Valley companies
  - Supply chain development
- Take responsibility for enquiry and client handling, liaising with clients and public and private sector partners across the Tees Valley; Site allocation, site briefs, identifying business synergies.
- Identify existing and emerging opportunities, defining marketing targets by industry sectors/sector analysis and developing strategy.
- Undertake marketing to attract Tees Valley level opportunities into the Tees Valley.

**The Combined Authority would approve a Tees Valley wide strategy for business investment, inward relocation, exporting and supply chain development.**

**The constituent Local Authorities would inform the development of the strategy, providing such input as may be appropriate or required in respect of their respective administrative areas.**

**Local authorities would continue to be able to provide their own levels of business investment and support, in relation to their own economic development and regeneration strategies and plans aligned with but mutually complementary to those of the Combined Authority.**

## **Low Carbon**

- Undertake project and financial management of studies linked to the Low Carbon Strategy.
- Liaise with Government departments and agencies to address barriers to investment.
- Coordinate consultation responses to a range of related consultations from Government, including National Planning Statements and energy policy, as well as EU legislation.
- Provide support to industry to develop low carbon infrastructure such as Carbon Capture and Storage, district heating, energy hubs, novel waste technologies and energy from waste plants.
- Assist in the preparation of funding bids for industry projects for national and European funds and the Green Investment Bank.

- Further developing relationships with NEPIC, CPI and other groups such as PICCSI and other relationships to assist in the delivery of key projects.
- Help to develop and articulate Tees Valley's offer as one of the largest integrated low carbon networks in Europe.
- Examine new delivery vehicles for the key projects.

### Transport

The main powers exercised by ITAs are:

- a) Subsidising bus services which are not profitable to run but are considered socially necessary.
- b) Providing/maintaining bus stations and shelters and planning and funding new public transport facilities.
- c) Providing travel information about transport services.
- d) Funding/managing concessionary travel schemes for the elderly, disabled, students, etc. including free passes and "Dial-a-Ride" services.
- e) Potentially obtaining more powers over buses through Quality Contracts (QC) or Quality Partnerships.
- f) Certain powers over local train services including influencing setting of fares and timetables.
- g) Producing a Joint Local Transport Plan for the area.

The Tees Valley does not have an ITA, therefore specific functions for the Tees Valley Combined Authority would be:-

- Develop and approve the Rail Strategy
- Develop and approve the Transport and Infrastructure Strategy including transport topics of significant importance e.g. Rail, Strategic road network and Airports.
- Manage and develop the successful on-going strategic relationship with the Highways Agency, and other Government departments and agencies (ie DfT, Network rail, rail franchise holders)
- Deliver modelling and analytical support for scheme and strategy schemes.
- Approve and submit bids for funding for Tees Valley level transport schemes.
- Develop, approve and implement in collaboration with the Local Authorities capital project procurement for transport schemes at a Tees Valley level.
- Represent those Authorities comprising the Combined Authority within regional, pan-northern and national fora lobbying for more investment in infrastructure

**The Combined Authority would approve the Rail Strategy and the Transport and Infrastructure Strategy.**

**The constituent Local Authorities would provide such input and support as may be required.**

**The Combined Authority would approve and submit bids for transport scheme funding.**

**The constituent Local Authorities would provide support for and input to the development of such bids.**

**The Combined Authority would approve the procurement of Tees Valley level transport schemes.**

**The constituent Local Authorities would assist with the development and implementation of such procurement.**

#### **Other Duties/Responsibilities**

- Determine the use of money that comes to TVU for joint purposes, such as Growing Places Fund, DfT Major Schemes, and any Regional Growth Fund, ERDF, ESF etc coming to TVU collectively.
- Decide strategic enablement and investment from the monies generated from TVU activities such as recycling of business rates uplift funds generated by Enterprise Zones.
- Determine the use of money allocated to TVU, such as funding allocated to TVU by local authorities and other bodies.
- We should include the General Power of Competence as far as it relates to the delivery of the Combined Authority's functions.

**The Combined Authority would approve the use of monies received for joint purposes.**

**The constituent Local Authorities would provide such support and advice as may be required.**

**The Combined Authority would approve strategic enablement and investment from funding generated by TVU activities.**

**The constituent Local Authorities would provide appropriate advice and support to ensure that the most advantageous strategic enablement and investment takes place.**

**The Combined Authority would approve the use of funds allocated to TVU.**

**The constituent Local Authorities would assist TVU to put such funds to the most appropriate use by providing such support and guidance as may be required or necessary.**

Underpinning the powers of the Combined Authority (and those of the local authorities) would be the notion of subsidiarity: doing the right thing, in the right place, at the right level.