

MEMBERS POLICY SEMINAR PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an overview of content from the Members Policy Seminar in May 2014 that provided an update on the work of Tees Valley unlimited including governance arrangements, Local Enterprise Partnership, achievements, specific initiatives and next steps.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council are recommended to:

1. Receive this report and note its contents.

BACKGROUND

1. Members Policy Seminars are an important vehicle for both informing and consulting with Members on a variety of topics from Policy and Legislative changes, contributions to Government consultations, and providing an update on local service provision from partner organisations. They have been in place since January 2009 and are particularly useful for those issues which are of importance to the Council or partners but are in the early stages of development, or those which will be of interest to Members, out with the usual reporting arrangements.
2. A programme of seminars is set annually with events planned on a monthly basis. Topics are reviewed monthly by the Corporate Management Team to ensure issues are current and discussions and information provision is timely. Special, additional seminars are arranged as required.

SUMMARY OF THE TOPIC COVERED IN MAY 2014

3. The Chief Executive of Tees Valley Unlimited Stephen Catchpole provided an update on the Local Enterprise Partnership, details of the specific initiatives that TVU are leading on, an update on the Strategic Economic Plan, the Local Growth Fund, an overview of the general investment strategy and details of the next steps for TVU. Key points from the presentation are detailed below:

Achievements

- Supported £750 million private sector capital investment
- Protected/ created 3000 jobs
- Successful bid for 375 million to improvement local Infrastructure
- Engaged over 1200 companies
- Secured over £160 million in grant funding for our companies.

Specific Initiatives/ areas of work

- Enterprise Zones
- Regional Growth Fund
- City Deal

- Strategic Economic Plan
- Local Growth Fund
- General Investment Strategy

Next Steps

- Transport issues – inc Rail franchises
- Jeremie 2
- National Biologic Centre
- Energy policy

4. Programme dates for the 2014/15 programme are now in diaries, a regular update report on member's seminar events will be provided to Council at each meeting going forward.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

11. There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Legal

12. There are no legal implications arising as a direct result from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

13. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

14. This report is not subject to Equality Impact Assessment as it makes no proposals for service development or policy change.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

15. Members Policy Seminars help the Council achieve all its objectives as outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

16. No external consultation has taken place on this report.

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Background Papers

Slides/ Presentation from the member seminar programmes.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Members Policy Seminars affect all wards in the Borough.

Property

This report has no implications for the Council's Capital Programme and Asset Management Plan.