

CABINET INFORMATION ITEM ONLY

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16TH MARCH 2023

REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET INFORMATION ITEM

Regeneration and Housing - Lead Cabinet Member - Councillor Nigel Cooke

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

SUMMARY

This report provides Members with an overview of relevant key announcements as they relate to the economy and the Inclusive Growth Strategy 2022-27, such as the £39.4m in private sector financial investment and the creation of 307 jobs.

Recommended that the report be noted.

DETAIL

1. Members received an update report on Inclusive Growth at its meeting in November 2022. The detail contained in this report has been framed around the four aims contained in the Inclusive Growth Strategy 2022-27 along with any pertinent strategic updates.

Strategic Updates

2. The **Tees Valley UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)** Forward Plan is now available to view [here](#). This contains details of the themes, proposed route to market and allocation of the Tees Valley UKSPF Funds. Please note that this is a live document and is therefore subject to change.
3. The North-East of England Chamber of Commerce (NEECC) is leading on the development of a **Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) for Tees Valley** that will ensure that businesses have a strong voice in the planning of local education and training provision by identifying skills priorities and making sure employers have access to appropriately skilled people when they need them.
4. **A new ten-year deal has been signed to keep a world-leading fire training centre at Teesside International Airport.** Serco has signed a ten-year lease with the airport – safeguarding more than 50 jobs at the world class centre of excellence. The International Fire Training Centre (IFTC) has been based at the airport since 1981. Serco's IFTC is a world leader in aviation fire training - providing life-saving guidance and expertise to thousands of firefighters every year. Not only does the Centre employ more than 50 people, but it also has another 100 associate instructors, and brings thousands of trainees to the region every year.

5. The Tees Valley's pioneering hydrogen sector is laying the foundation for the world's first net zero industrial cluster – with a new paper '[A Vision for Hydrogen in the Tees Valley](#)' setting out how the region will lead the UK in its energy ambitions and to become one of the world's first decarbonised industrial clusters.
6. Redcar and Cleveland College has unveiled plans for the development of its £3.2m **Clean Energy Education Hub**, which will deliver **training for careers in the clean and renewable energy industry**. Stockton Council Officers visited the site in November 2022 to discuss the opportunities available and to facilitate collaborative working with the Stockton Employment and Training (E&T) Hub.

Support businesses to survive and grow

7. Stockton Borough Council's **Business Investment and Growth Fund** (using Indigenous Growth Fund monies) that was developed to enhance business growth, implement innovative ways of working, increase economic output, create jobs and business' sustainability has **supported 3 businesses** to date with a total of **£150K of grant funding** approved towards total **private sector project costs of £595K**, and with **13 new jobs being created**. The Fund supports growth plans such as investment in business accommodation, equipment, marketing and promotion, and making use of new technologies.
8. Most recently a **£50K grant was awarded to Bower Retirement Limited (t/a Bower Finance)** towards total project costs of £74,183.74 for equipment and software for their financial operations branch at Teesdale Business Park, which will support the creation of 6 jobs as part of the project and take their staff numbers up to 16 within 18 months.
9. The Tees Valley **SME Energy Efficiency Scheme (SMEEES)** has supported **46 Stockton businesses** with advice and guidance and 15 grants being awarded amounting to over £275K, which will generate almost £429K in private sector match funding and **achieve 476.20 tonnes of carbon saving**.
10. **Stockton businesses are currently being [surveyed](#)** to understand any challenges they are currently facing, the results from which will help to inform and shape the direction of business communication mechanisms and support moving forward.

New businesses and investment are being attracted to the Borough creating new jobs

11. Between 11.5.22 to 1.12.22 there have been **159 private sector investments** by businesses confirmed in Stockton-on-Tees¹ to a total of **£39.4m financial investment, 307 jobs created and / or the workforce planning and energy efficiency needs of the businesses assessed**.
12. Plans have been approved for a new **Aldi Superstore at Portrack Lane, Stockton**. The retailer will build a 1,867sq.m. unit on a derelict plot opposite the existing Asda Superstore. Aldi says it will **invest £5m** into the local economy with up to **40 new full and part-time jobs** at the shop and more during its construction stages and in the supply chain.
13. **Clean Planet Energy** has announced a new joint venture to fund their flagship '**ecoPlant**', which is currently under construction at **Haverton Hill, Stockton**. The facility will create **large numbers of jobs for local people in the development stage, through to construction and operation**. Bp has signed a 10-year agreement with Clean Planet Energy and will initially receive the output of this first facility. The plant will be the first of 10 new ecoPlants that

¹ The majority reported via public sources

Crossroads Real Estate and Clean Planet Energy are jointly seeking to build and operate across the UK.

All residents have access to training linked to skills gaps and job opportunities

14. **Stockton's Employment and Training (E&T) Hub** in Wellington Square recently celebrated its first anniversary since opening on 11th February 2022. There are now **2,552 Stockton residents registered**. **233 of these residents have moved into employment**. Of these **75 secured roles in care** specific jobs and other occupations in that sector, an area that the E&T Hub has focused on recently.
15. **343 people have attended the 33 training courses** that the team has organised. Residents are directly benefiting from accessing the support and services available at the Hub and via the **217 organisations they work in partnership with**.
16. **Social media** campaigns and communications continue to be a vital part of the services offered at the E&T Hub and most recent figures suggest social media posts have **reached 241,679 accounts**: resulting in **86,488 engagements** and **1,515 followers**.
17. The team have held a variety of successful events over the last 12 months; with **2,496 people attending** over that time. Most recently, the E&T Hub has held several successful events including a recruitment event on 25th January, "**New Year, New Job**", which attracted over 480 people and more than 40 employers (160 of these residents were out of work benefit claimants, suggesting that the remainder were people looking for different careers). On 6th February, during National Apprenticeships Week, an **Apprenticeship Event had 100 jobs on offer** and **280 local residents** attended. In total, the team have worked with **327 businesses**.
18. The E&T Hub team constantly strive to bring new and relevant activity to the Hub and the first "**green**" **course** has been launched for young people to showcase to them the sustainable careers of the future including Biotech and academic routes into Digital Careers in partnership with the National Horizons Centre.
19. The E&T Hub team has recently been awarded the **Customer Service "Star Team Award 2022"** and they continue to proactively seek out opportunities to raise the profile of the positive work taking place in Stockton-on-Tees via external Award submissions.
20. In term 1 of the 2022/23 academic year, **Stockton Council's Learning and Skills Service** has supported residents, employers, and local communities by **delivering courses to over 1,000 learners**. Substantial work has been undertaken to develop a curriculum to support those in greatest need and address significant barriers such as health and wellbeing, social isolation and provide the skills / qualifications required to support employment prospects.
21. In the wake of **the cost of living and energy crisis** close collaboration with local partners and community groups has resulted in the development of innovative and responsive community programmes such as '**Energy Saving Recipes**', '**Food Bank Parcel Cookery**', and '**Money Management**' programmes, many of which have been delivered in targeted 'Warm Spaces'. As a result, approximately 50% of learners accessing courses reside from a disadvantaged area, signalling the work of the Service to target its funding where it's most needed.
22. In addition, the Service continues to deliver skills programmes designed to **increase economic prosperity for residents and support local employers**. In partnership with the E&T Hub and employers such as **Stagecoach** and **Arriva** to support their recruitment and workforce needs.
23. As a vitally important and large employment sector, targeted business-based training programmes have continued to be delivered such as through the '**Care Academy**', and we are starting to link it to our regeneration plans in the Borough.

24. As a result of these community and skills-based programmes, currently **75% of all learners have progressed into a positive destination** such as employment, further learning or have progressed within their chosen careers.
25. **In December 2022, the Service was successful in securing additional funding to deliver numeracy programmes through 'Multiply' - the first programme to be delivered through the new UKSPF.** 'Multiply' aims to increase the levels of functional numeracy in the adult population to enable: more adults to achieve a Maths qualification; improve labour market outcomes; and increase functional numeracy skills across the adult population. **The Service will now be able to support 1,100 residents up to March 2025**, which further strengthens our position to support those in greatest need.

Deliver interventions that facilitate inclusive growth

26. The Government's **Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF) programme** is designed to **bring derelict and underused brownfield sites into productive use.** The fund is devolved to Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and as a land enabling programme it is designed to support activity to remediate land and enable residential development to be delivered, where without the intervention of BHF the site would stall or remain undeveloped. Through this programme Keepmoat Homes have delivered 14 two-bedroom bungalows for older people and vulnerable residents created on the previously cleared site of Elm House, on Bath Lane.
27. **Muse Developments secured over £1.3m** of BHF in 2022, with support from the Council. This has **enabled phases 4 and 5 at Northshore, Stockton, to begin delivery** of 113 high quality two and three bedroomed new affordable family homes. Upon completion, these homes on this flagship regeneration site will be transferred to Thirteen Housing Group. More recently over £1.7m of BHF is being considered for approved for Beyond Housing to ensure the development of 117 energy efficient, modular, and affordable homes at the Events Car Park site in Stockton can continue on this previously stalled site. Circa £1m has also been approved for Thirteen Group at the Westdale Road site, Stockton (following demolition of Anson House and Hudson House) for 37 affordable homes.

Consultation and Engagement

28. Consultation and engagement on the content of the report is not necessary as there are alternative practises in place to consult and engage businesses and residents on project specific activity and support programmes.

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