

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME OF MEETING**

**REGENERATION SERVICES  
COMMITTEE AGENDA**



**Thursday 10 April 2014**

**at 10.00 am**

**in Committee Room B,  
at the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

MEMBERS: REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Cranney, Dawkins, Fisher, Morris and Payne.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2014 (*previously published*)

**4. KEY DECISIONS**

No items.

**5. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

No items.



## PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME OF MEETING

### 6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 6.1 Swim Development Programme – *Director of Public Health*
- 6.2 Youth Employment Initiative – *Assistant Director, Regeneration*
- 6.3 Tees Valley European Structural and Investment Funds Strategies (ESIFS) 2014-2020 – *Assistant Director, Regeneration*
- 6.4 Tees Valley Business Growth Hub and Tees Valley Unlimited Skills and Apprenticeship Programme – *Assistant Director, Regeneration*

### 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

#### FOR INFORMATION:

Date of next meeting – 8 May 2014 at 9.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.



# REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

10<sup>th</sup> April 2014



**Report of:** Director of Public Health

**Subject:** SWIM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform and update Members on the success of our aquatics programme at Mill House Leisure Centre. The report also highlights the impact of the recent work to install a pool boom into the main pool tank and as a result, the potential for growth of aquatic provision for Hartlepool residents.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Members will be aware that up until November 2013, the Mill House Leisure Centre pool design was based on two pool tanks; a learner pool and an “L” shaped main pool. However the installation of a boom in December 2013 allowed the main pool to be split into two, creating a 25 metre and a 20 metre pool. This work was linked to the financial strategy moving forwards for 2014/15 but required to be undertaken in advance to ensure completion for April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.

3.2 Aside from the general swimming offer available to all residents, a swim development programme has always been a main component of the Centre’s activity programme offering participation opportunities to a range of target groups. This programme adheres to the National Swimming Plan and ASA Learn to Swim Pathway to ensure high standards of teaching and developmental opportunities across a wide age group.

3.3 This programme also includes the Learn to Swim scheme provision available to Hartlepool Primary schools where it is recommended as part of the National Plan that children should be able to swim 25 metres competently by Year 6.

#### 4. LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAMME – PROGRESS

- 4.1 This academic year, ten schools are currently accessing the Learn to Swim provision provided by the Council and interest continues to increase from other schools.
- 4.2 There are currently 512 children from schools who are learning to swim from Years 3 to 6. At this stage of the academic year, 43% of children have already achieved their 25 metre swimming award and are progressing to develop other skills. This is a great achievement for the programme with a large proportion of the academic year left and demonstrates that the teaching quality of our Swim Teachers is excellent and having a positive effect.
- 4.3 The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) also provided some additional funding at the end of the 2012/13 academic year to support the development scheme with the delivery of a “Top Up” swimming programme supporting Year 6 children who could not swim 25 metres. This has successfully provided additional swimming lessons for 80 schoolchildren to date and 53 children after 6 weeks of lessons (3 hours) have successfully achieved the 25 metre standard. It is intended that this programme will continue to engage more children until the summer term 2014.
- 4.4 The Swim Team also delivers 36 community swim development sessions per week. These courses include such things as Swim a Song for Parent and Baby, Ducklings targeting 3-5 year olds, Stages 1-7 for children and young people, Stages 1-7 for adults and junior and adult swimfit. There are currently 427 people enrolled on these courses and interest is growing significantly.
- 4.5 Children with additional needs have also been accommodated within the community and school Learn to Swim programme. To ensure they are achieving their full potential, we have introduced “Alpha Steps” which sets realistic targets for children with additional needs to meet stages of development and increases their confidence and ability in the water.
- 4.6 Recreational aquatic activity has also been piloted since last summer and it is intended that this will be sustained long term once staff have accessed additional training and development. Amongst this has included Rookie Lifeguard training during school holiday programmes which has generated great interest and it is intended to provide this on a permanent basis from April now that the new pool configuration offers this opportunity.
- 4.7 In addition to this, “Flip and Fun Diving” has been fully subscribed in all taster programmes and will also be considered as a sustainable feature from April onwards.
- 4.8 Finally Swimfit is proving popular since its launch providing structured activity for those who want more than to swim lengths but perhaps do not necessarily want the structure of club based provision. This has proved to be an excellent exit route from Stage 7 of the development programme for both adults and children.

## 5 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 As highlighted in the report to Regeneration Services Committee on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2013 and as indicated in Section 4 of this report, the new pool configuration will allow us the opportunity to further expand and develop swimming opportunities at Mill House Leisure Centre.
- 5.2 The re-opening of the pools once the work was completed at the end of December 2013 brought an instant positive reaction from customers. Not only was this due to the increased flexibility of water space arrangements but more importantly, that a substantial “face-lift” had been given to the swimming pool facilities.
- 5.3 At the moment however and until April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014, a temporary pool programme is in place in accordance with the current lifeguarding and teaching arrangements. However, from this date onwards, new lifeguarding working arrangements will come into operation which will further increase water space availability to all customers and will allow for a new permanent programme to be offered. This will include extending pool opening hours for general swimming, an enhanced and expanded aquatic development programme as well as extended availability to both of the town’s swimming clubs.
- 5.4 Some of the key changes therefore to our term-time programme will be as follows. Obviously for the school holiday periods, a different programme will be on offer to allow for holiday activities:-
- Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 12.00 noon - the 25 metre pool will be open for lane swimming where previously swimming was not available.
  - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5.00pm to 9.45pm - the 20 metre pool will be open for general swimming where previously swimming was not available.
  - Both Hartlepool Swimming Club and Aquaforce Swimming Academy will have the opportunity to access the 25 metre pool seven days per week totalling 16.5 hours per week should they so wish which is an increase in terms of time and pool space collectively compared to the present arrangements.
  - The creation of the 25 metre pool has increased lane swimming availability on weekdays considerably from what was previously available – only 2 lanes, 3 hours in total per day to 5 lanes available at least 5 hours per day.
  - Over recent years the diving boards were available 5 days per week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for periods of four hours or more which reduced the pool availability for swimming due to the need to section off the diving area. Under the new programme however, the boards will be open seven days per week for an hour weekday evenings and three hours on Saturdays and Sundays which will provide a more balanced programme.
  - Over the years the popularity of the waterslide has decreased but the programmed use of the slide has remained the same which proves very labour intensive to operate as two lifeguards are required. Unfortunately due to a

mechanical problem with the pump, the slide has not operated since re-opening which interestingly, has not caused any negative feedback from customers. From April under the new programme, it is planned to reduce the availability of the slide anyway under the new lifeguarding arrangements.

- Due to the new configuration of the pools and increased flexibility of waterspace, we will be able to introduce new additional development classes and increase already popular classes such as Aquajog, Ante Natal, and Water Mobility. We will also be able to offer additional times to accommodate school lessons.

5.5 During the refurbishment period, we provided a training programme for our staff involved in swim provision to ensure that our development programme could successfully grow. All of our Lifeguarding Team (12 staff) successfully completed their ASA UKCC Level 1 in teaching swimming which will allow them to assist a Level 2 Teacher with classes and it is planned to hold a Level 2 course for these staff to allow them to fully qualify later this year. In addition to this, three of our Level 2 Teachers trained to deliver Swimfit and are now Aquatic Activators.

5.6 Finally during January 2014, Mill House Leisure Centre was audited under the leisure facilities management nationally accredited quality assurance system "Quest". Members will be pleased to note that both the Mystery Visit report as part of this process and the Quest audit report was extremely complimentary about the new and improved pool arrangements and the positive impact this would have on swimmers and swimming provision in Hartlepool.

## 6. SUMMARY

6.1 This report highlights the key impacts of the recent pool refurbishment and the revision of the pool programme on offer to the public. General swimming figures have already increased since January in comparison to last year and the aquatics development programme has also grown significantly over the past year.

6.2 The increased availability and flexibility of the waterspace will now allow for the introduction of a new pool programme in April which in turn will provide additional opportunities for Hartlepool residents to swim. This is an extremely positive step forward in the 41 year history of the swimming facilities at Mill House Leisure Centre.

## 7. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 There are no implications under Section 17.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That the Regeneration Service Committee notes the content of the report and the progress made in the delivery of swimming opportunities by the Sport and Recreation service.

## **9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The ongoing contribution to the Council's strategic priorities concerning Public Health.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 Regeneration Services Committee Report, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013, MILL HOUSE LEISURE CENTRE – OPTIONS FOR FUTURE POOL CONFIGURATION

## **11. CONTACT OFFICER**

Louise Wallace  
Director of Public Health  
Level 4  
Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY  
Tel: (01429) 284030  
E-mail: [louise.wallace@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:louise.wallace@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Pat Usher  
Head of Sport & Recreation  
Level 4  
Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY  
Tel: (01429) 523416  
E-mail : [pat.usher@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:pat.usher@hartlepool.gov.uk)

# REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

10<sup>th</sup> April 2014



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Regeneration)

**Subject:** YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the European Union Youth Employment Initiative (YEI).

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The European Union Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) forms part of a package of measures designed to deal with high levels of youth unemployment in many parts of the EU. In an attempt to tackle this problem, the European Council agreed a recommendation encouraging member states to establish 'youth guarantee' schemes. The schemes would be designed to ensure that all young people received a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

3.2 The purpose of the YEI is to establish a dedicated source of EU funding to support the implementation of youth guarantee schemes and other initiatives to reduce youth unemployment. EU funding will be specifically targeted at regions in which the youth unemployment rate exceeds 25%. The initiative will have a budget of €6 billion for the programme period from 2014 to 2020. Of the funding, €3 billion will come from a dedicated Youth Employment budget line complemented by at least €3 billion more from the European Social Fund (ESF). Only the ESF element of the funding will require match funding.



#### **4. THE TEES VALLEY AND THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE**

- 4.1 The Tees Valley area also qualifies for additional funding under the EU YEI and has a notional allocation of £12.59m from the dedicated YEI budget line. This has to be equally matched from the Tees Valley ESF allocation at £12.59m. As outlined above, the ESF element of the funding needs to be locally matched. Therefore, due to the Tees Valley's Transition Region Status Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) are required to match the ESF element at 40% which equals around £8.39m. In total, the Tees Valley has around £33.57m to invest in the YEI.
- 4.2 The Tees Valley European Structural & Investment Funds Strategy (ESIFS) for 2014 – 2020 outlines high level activity areas for the YEI and also outlines that TVU are proposing to 'Opt In' to the match funding offer from the Skills Funding Agency for the Employment Theme, which includes the YEI (see pages 57 – 60 of Strategy). It is important that TVU start the process for the design of the detailed specification of activities that TVU would like to deliver through the YEI investment.
- 4.3 The timescales for the YEI also dictate that activity needs to be commissioned during 2014 and 2015 and this issue is set out in more detail below. TVU has therefore arranged a Task & Finish Group with local partners, to specifically focus on the YEI. The first YEI Task and Finish Group was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 and covered the following items:
- Short presentations given on current ESF youth provision in order to highlight current areas of activity to partners to help stimulate discussion and ideas going forward.
  - A presentation given on recent research into youth participation. This has been undertaken by Stockton Participation Team but is a good indicator and will hopefully stimulate some new ideas on how and when we should be targeting any interventions.
- 4.4 The YEI Programme provides a good opportunity to consider doing different options to help young people access existing services as well as creating new ones, e.g. better use of new technologies and access facilities.
- 4.5 TVU's aim for this Task and Finish Group will be to concentrate on the key outcomes TVU want to achieve and to identify the potential solutions to achieve them.

#### **5. TIMESCALES FOR YEI**

- 5.1 Due to the urgent need to address youth unemployment, the European Union indicated that the YEI was to commence on 1 January 2014, with programmes to be commissioned during 2014 and 2015, and delivery to take place within three years of commissioning, i.e. by the end of 2018 at the

latest. However, to be able to spend Tees Valley's YEI allocation, there is a need to access the Tees Valley ESF and it seems unlikely that any of the European Structural & Investment Funds (which include ESF) will be available to spend before early 2015.

5.2 This means that TVU wouldn't be able to spend YEI before 2015, so TVU has asked whether YEI can be spent in advance of ESF, although this seems unlikely.

5.3 Therefore, subject to the outcome of further discussions on this issue TVU has also requested that the UK Government explore with the European Commission whether it would be possible to push back TVU's commissioning of the YEI monies to 2015 and 2016 and therefore allow delivery to continue to 2019.

## **6. DRAFT TIMELINE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION WITH SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

6.1 TVU has had some very initial discussions with the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) regarding the likely process for the development of the specification for the Opt In arrangement for the Youth Employment Initiative activities and the subsequent commissioning activities.

6.2 The timetable for activities is shown in **Appendix 1**.

## **7. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 At this stage there are no other specific legal or financial implications, however EU funding brings a raft of legal and financial obligations including potential claw back. All these risks will be considered and a range of risk mitigation measures will be implemented with robust monitoring and auditing frameworks to ensure that all activity is compliant with appropriate conditions of funding. The claw back conditions are normally imposed on organisations that receive the funding. In addition, most funding is provided retrospectively on achievement of outputs, therefore risks are substantially mitigated.

## **8. IMPACT ON CHILD / FAMILY POVERTY**

8.1 This funding will positively contribute to tackling the longer term causes and consequences of child and family poverty by preventing young people from becoming long term NEET by providing individuals with skills and experience that will enable them to reach their aspirational goals and become economically active.

## **9. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 This funding will positively contribute to Section 17 by providing employment routeways for young people. It will also provide routeways for individuals who may have been identified as high risk of offending.

## **10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 This funding will provide opportunities for young people, particularly amongst vulnerable groups such as the seven priority groups shown below: -

- Looked after children and care leavers;
- Young offenders (including those leaving the secure estate);
- Teenage parents;
- Young carers;
- Young people with specific learning difficulties and/or disabilities (SLDD);
- Young people with mental health issues, and;
- Young people with drug and alcohol misuse issues.

## **11. CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER COUNCIL PROJECTS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

- 11.1 This funding will benefit other Council employment initiatives, such as the Hartlepool Youth Investment Project and Think Families, Think Communities. Also, the project will positively contribute to the following indicators: -

- Improving the Overall Employment Rate;
- Improving the Overall Youth Employment Rate;
- Reducing the Youth Unemployment Rate, and;
- Reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

## **12. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 Members are recommended to note the contents of this report.

## **13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 13.1 The [Tees Valley European Structural & Investment Funds Strategy \(ESIFS\)](#) for 2014 – 2020

## **14. CONTACT OFFICER**

Damien Wilson  
Assistant Director (Regeneration)  
Level 3  
Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523400  
E-mail: [damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Patrick Wilson  
Employment Development Officer  
Bryan Hanson House  
Hanson Square  
Hartlepool  
TS24 7BT

Tel: (01429) 523517  
E-mail: [patrick.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

## APPENDIX 1

<b>Forward Timetable for European Funds</b>	<b>Youth Employment Initiative Timeline/Process</b>
<b>2014</b>	
<b>January 2014:</b> Tees Valley European Structural & Investment Funds Strategy (ESIFS) submitted to Government	
<b>February/March:</b> Tees Valley ESIFS Agreed with Government	<b>March:</b> First meeting of the Youth Employment Initiative Task and Finish Group
<b>March:</b> Government submits UK Partnership Contract/Operational Programmes	<b>April/May:</b> YEI specification designed with Skills Funding Agency
<b>Second half of 2014:</b> Detailed negotiations between European Union & UK Government	<b>June/July:</b> Procurement Process commences
<b>Late 2014:</b> England European Programme commences	<b>November:</b> Contract/s awarded
<b>2015</b>	
<b>January 2015:</b> Tees Valley European Programme commences	Delivery of Youth Employment Initiative activities commences

# REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

10<sup>th</sup> April 2014



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Regeneration)

**Subject:** TEES VALLEY EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS STRATEGIES (ESIFS) 2014-2020

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For Information Only.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To update Members on the Tees Valley submission for a Tees Valley Tees Valley European Structural and Investment Funds Strategies (ESIFS) for the European Union Transition Funding Programme 2014-2020.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 For the next round of ESIFS, Local Enterprise Partnerships - including Tees Valley Unlimited – are responsible for the design of the ESIFS to enable their areas to access European Regional Development Funds (ERDF), European Social Funds (ESF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

3.2 Tees Valley has been notionally allocated £173m from ERDF and ESF and an allocation of £1.1m from the EAFRD. As a Transition Region, Tees Valley benefits from increased levels of funding and from having to find a 40% match (to the 60% European money), rather than 50% (as is the case in more developed regions). Phasing of drawing down funding will be developed in conjunction with the formation of the ESIFS implementation plan.

3.3 TVU and the Tees Valley Local Authorities have undertaken extensive engagement with stakeholders on creating the ESIFS, including two rounds of Task and Finish Groups and a public consultation process. TVU is currently using this information, Government feedback, EU guidance and the views of the Managing Authority, to develop the final version of the ESIFS

that has been submitted. This includes further work on outputs, opt-ins, match funding, Financial Engineering Instruments and EAFRD.

3.4 The draft ESIFS was published on TVU's website for public consultation for a month in November 2013, with around 30 responses received. Feedback was very positive and TVU responded to the 20 main questions arising from the feedback, mainly on SME competitiveness, the low carbon economy and climate change adaptation, and published these on the website.

3.5 The proposed ESIFS is designed specifically to drive forward economic growth for the sub region and at the same time drive up economic participation for the residents of Tees Valley. The key priorities are noted below and funding allocations are noted in section 4.1 with more detailed output information noted in section 4.19;

- **ERDF Business Support** – Innovation, SME's competitiveness and shift to low carbon economy. Key outputs include 4,581 enterprises supported, 500 new enterprises, 500 businesses supported with superfast broadband and 3,058 jobs created
- **ESF Support for Residents** – Employment, Social Inclusion and Skills. Key outputs include supporting 42,286 residents
- **EAFRD Support for the Rural Economy**- Super fast broadband connectivity and rural transport solutions. Key outputs include 41 jobs created, however further work is being undertaken on identifying all outputs.

3.6 Feedback was received from Government in November 2013, which was very positive, outlining that "Tees Valley has produced a good comprehensive first draft," with "a clear and compelling picture of Tees Valley and the issues and challenges the area faces. The draft was also praised for the amount of consultation undertaken and the strong governance arrangements that are in place.

3.7 However, Government identified a number of areas where it felt more work was required from all LEPs, particularly:

- Strengthen the link between market failures and proposed interventions
- Develop the value for money case for interventions
- Review notional allocations to thematic objectives and look to concentrate funding on as few Thematic Objectives as possible to maximise impact
- Describe the rationale for allocations
- Details of match funding (particularly from opt-ins)

3.8 Additionally, Government advised Tees Valley to move sustainable transport and climate change activities under the low carbon theme. Further discussions have taken place with Government and the TV LEP has been advised to move ICT, Climate Change and Sustainable Transport activities under SME Competitiveness due to the focus of the activities proposed on supporting enterprises. Reference to supporting businesses in the Low Carbon Theme is also now referenced under Innovation and SME

competitiveness Themes and £9m of the initial allocation under Low Carbon has been moved to the SME Competitiveness Theme.

#### 4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The table below reflects the changes described above in Section 3, includes RGF funding for young people and EAFRD, while allocations for the other Thematic Objectives remain the same as the draft ESIFS.

<b>ERDF (£104.08m (60% of total structural fund allocation)</b>	
ERDF theme	Total ERDF allocation (% allocation)
<b>Innovation</b>	<b>£25m (24%)</b>
<b>SME Competitiveness</b>	<b>£63.47m (61%)</b>
<b>Low Carbon Economy</b>	<b>£15.6m (15%)</b>
<b>ESF £69.39m (40% of total structural allocation)</b>	
ESF theme	Total ESF allocation (% allocation)
<b>Employment</b>	<b>£32.05m (46%)</b>
<b>Social inclusion</b>	<b>£13.88m (20%)</b>
<b>Skills</b>	<b>£23.46m (34%)</b>
<b>Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)</b>	<b>£12.59m</b>
<b>EAFRD (Rural)</b>	<b>£1.1m</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£187.12m</b>

- 4.2 The Government has offered a series of national opt-ins which can be used to source some of the match funding required against ERDF and ESF. Government feedback in November explained that the final version of the ESIFS should set out more detail on the opt-ins.
- 4.3 The draft set out in opting in to each of the following subject to further detailed discussions and the national contract arrangements. On ERDF, specifically under the SME Competitiveness theme:
- UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) for export support for SMEs: The draft set out the intention to opt-in for £1.9m ERDF across the whole period, based upon the suggested UKTI levels of intervention per number of businesses in Tees Valley.
  - Growth Accelerator (GA) for business coaching and other support for SMEs: The draft set out the intention to opt-in for £0.91m ERDF across the whole period, based upon the current GA intervention rate in Tees Valley.
  - Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) for business productivity support for SMEs: The draft set out the intention to opt-in for £0.05m



ERDF across the first two years of the programme, based upon the current level of MAS engagement with Tees Valley companies.

4.4 On ESF, subject to the same caveats, opt in to the following:

- Skills Funding Agency (SFA) for skills activity: the draft did not set out how much Tees Valley would opt-in for (as £170m of match funding for ESF has been made available nationally for LEPs through the Local Growth Fund and will be allocated to each LEP in proportion to its total European allocation; we have estimated at £5.3m ESF) and discussions are ongoing with SFA over the detail of the opt-in.
- DWP for employment activity: DWP match is in the form of existing provision, most likely the national programmes in place at the time (Work Choice and the Work Programme) and the draft stated that Tees Valley would look to opt-in at £6m ESF for 2-3 years of the programme. This is based upon current ESF programme investment via DWP.
- Big Lottery Fund (BLF): the draft proposed to opt in for two years at 80% of the £13.88m ESF allocation (to enable some local flexibility to be retained). However, following discussions at the Social Inclusion Task and Finish Group (which is continuing to meet) and with BLF, it was proposed that in order to maximise the potential match, Tees Valley should opt-in at 80% across the whole period, which equates to £11.1m ESF. The remaining 20% (approx. £2.7m ESF) would fund activities, such as access to low cost credit and cultural activity programmes to support employability, that BLF do not currently fund.

4.5 Further discussions will take place with all the opt-in organisations to gain clarity on the exact level of match (expected to be 50%, although Big Lottery Fund have reported that it will be based on Transition Region Status at 40%), work up service level agreements (particularly the three related to SME Competitiveness, where the contracts for delivering these services from 2015/16 are being re-tendered). The level of opt-in remains the same as the draft ESIFS, barring that of the Big Lottery Fund and SFA (which is estimated).

4.6 There are a number of Financial Engineering Instruments (FEI) available for LEPs to access. Essentially FEI is a method of providing repayable investments and will include venture and equity capital and must support the aims and objectives of the ESIFS. TVU identified interest in two in the draft ESIFS. Government feedback stated that the FEIs did not need to be agreed by the deadline of bid submission, but that key milestones for the development of any proposed FEIs should be set out.

4.7 Firstly, the retrofitting of social housing. FEI is an instrument to finance, by way of low interest long term lending via the European Investment Bank (EIB), to enable low carbon investments in social housing. A minimum investment of £10m of ERDF is required (matched by £10m of EIB funding), although LEPs

can collaborate to meet this figure. This would create a recyclable fund, although there are concerns over the loan-based nature of the fund. Further work is being undertaken exploring the options.

- 4.8 The second FEI that has been identified relates to the development of a successor to the North East JEREMIE fund, which provides a range of venture and equity capital based funding for SME's. Discussions are ongoing with the North East LEP about the establishment of an access to finance fund to support SMEs. Funding would be derived from contributions from RDA legacy monies, ERDF and an EIB loan. Whilst much detail remains to be established before both LEPs can make an unequivocal commitment the paper does provide a basis for continued progress to be made. The proposal would involve the creation of a £160m fund. The Tees Valley contribution to this figure would be £40m i.e. 25% from ERDF (£19.5m) and its share of securing an EIB loan. The exact mechanism for taking out the loan is yet to be determined. Flowing from this is the indication that the Tees Valley's companies would receive 25% of the Fund delivery, 25% of the benefits. With private sector investment, the Tees Valley ERDF contribution of £19.5m would yield some £75m i.e. a multiple of 3.8.
- 4.9 TVU was advised in late December that the Tees Valley allocation for the EAFRD would be £1.1m. Some initial work has been undertaken by Tees Valley and the Tees Valley Rural Community Council to look at how the funding could be allocated across the programme period. It is considered that the main focus for the EAFRD funding should be upon the following:
- Supporting rural businesses through tailored business support, providing a top up from the Business Growth Hub and other SME Competitiveness support;
  - Encouraging the establishment and growth of new and existing firms in rural areas (through bringing groups of SMEs together, creating a Rural Business Growth Hub, supporting the development of the food and equestrian sectors, the re-use of redundant buildings and by encouraging supply chain development)
- 4.10 It is considered that supporting superfast broadband connectivity in rural areas and the provision of rural transport solutions can potentially come through ERDF and other sources (e.g. future rural broadband and sustainable transport funding schemes from central government). The themes identified will be inputted into the final ESIFS. However, although guidance on the themes and activities that can be funded through EAFRD and outputs to be measured was issued by Government on 10 January, further work is needed to define the activities and outputs for the Tees Valley.
- 4.11 Government has made it clear that the ESIFS and the LEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) be designed and function as an integrated package, providing robust evidence of how they will support local growth and to provide detail of local priorities for investment. Therefore, the evidence base in the draft ESIFS will be supplemented by the more detailed evidence in the SEP to

provide coherence and a more comprehensive analysis of the Tees Valley economy. A sustainability audit is currently being carried out on both the ESIFS and the SEP and the results will feed into the final version.

- 4.12 The Task and Finish Groups have reviewed the outputs in the draft, with some suggested amendments, such as on ICT, proposed. However, it was felt that Tees Valley should work with Government agencies, such as SFA, DWP, DEFRA and CLG, to clarify output numbers, meet Government feedback on value for money and develop more numbers for ESF, where there were gaps in the draft.
- 4.13 Government has offered support to help benchmark outputs and produced guidance notes for both ERDF and ESF and Tees Valley has held a number of meetings with Government agencies over the past two weeks to look further at outputs. Tees Valley will use these and discussions with Government agencies to develop the outputs further for the final submission. However, such guidance is not comprehensive and work continues to fill in the gaps.
- 4.14 Task and Finish Groups were asked to consider which delivery mechanisms were the most appropriate for each theme. The delivery routes used in the ERDF 2007 - 13 Programme were used as the basis for discussion.
- 4.15 Open calls (the most frequently used mechanism in the current programme where a broad call document setting out high-level priorities is produced and proposals encouraged from any organisation) and limited calls (where a more specific proposal is drawn up explaining what and how something should be delivered) were suggested for almost all objectives, with the balance towards limited bidding. Partners felt that this would give more control over investments. Open bidding was recognised as an important route to bottom up and innovative project development. This method of delivery was particularly relevant within Social Inclusion, SME competitiveness and Employment and Skills.
- 4.16 Non-competitive selection (where a particular organisation is appointed without a competition, a mechanism used the least frequently in the current programme due to being an unfavourable route with the European Commission) was seen as an option only where specific expertise was needed, such as flood defence projects.
- 4.17 The draft Tees Valley ESIFS set out the case for freedoms and flexibilities under the next programme, including the ability to use local output measures, deliver projects over the full programme period and vire investment according to changing or emerging local need. In response, Government is consulting LEPs on the development of the business processes for the 2014-2020 programme and scope within that to reflect flexibilities in the national model.
- 4.18 The interventions from the draft ESIFS remain largely the same, although there has been some movement between themes. For example, it was felt that ESF support for enterprise and entrepreneurship (previously under

employment), support for social enterprise (previously under social inclusion) and ERDF assistance for digital businesses (previously under ICT) would be better suited by moving into SME Competitiveness. Furthermore the ICT, Sustainable Transport and Climate Change Adaptation themes are incorporated within the SME Competitiveness Thematic Objective. Work is ongoing in order to clarify the output numbers used in the draft and table below.

**ERDF (£104.8m)**

Theme	Interventions	Outputs
<p><b>Innovation (TO1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low Carbon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct support for innovation for enterprises</li> <li>• Support for collaboration across sectors</li> <li>• Enhance business capacity for innovation support in enterprises</li> <li>• Create a new commercialisation hub.</li>   <li>• Build the market in low carbon technologies, goods and services, supporting SMEs to develop new technology and processes</li> </ul>	<p>997 enterprises cooperating with research entities 75 enterprises supported to introduce new to market products 150 enterprises supported to introduce new to firm products £8m of private investment</p> <p>78 enterprises cooperating with research entities</p> <p>208 enterprises supported to introduce new to firm products</p>
<p><b>SME Competitiveness (TO3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JEREMIE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate and provide cross sector targeted business support through the development of a Business Growth Hub</li> <li>• Encourage the development of robust Tees Valley supply chains</li> <li>• Provide specialist business support activities for SMEs covering resource management, knowledge exchange, exporting, supply chain development, ICT and e-commerce and coaching</li> <li>• Support the provision of appropriate business accommodation and infrastructure</li> <li>• Develop and support entrepreneurship as a route to self-employment / social enterprise creation</li> <li>• Ensure a flexible mix of finance available for SMEs</li> </ul>	<p>920 enterprises receiving support</p> <p>443 new enterprises supported</p> <p>£11.6m private sector investment</p> <p>541 entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready</p> <p>188 increase in business start ups</p> <p>66 number of SMEs receiving financial</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICT</li>   <li>• Climate Change Adaptation</li>   <li>• Sustainable Transport</li>   <li>• Low Carbon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further rollout of high speed digital networks to businesses and communities in areas of market failure</li> <li>• Support and promote take up and exploitation of superfast broadband by enterprises and those seeking employment</li>   <li>• Invest in key flood risk mitigation, adaptation and prevention infrastructure</li>   <li>• Supporting routes into employment for local people through sustainable transport measures</li> <li>• Supporting businesses and residents to make sustainable transport choices</li>   <li>• Build the market in low carbon technologies, goods and services, supporting SMEs to develop new technology and processes</li> </ul>	<p>assistance</p> <p>8,240 sqm business premises developed</p> <p>1.5 HA Infrastructure site developed</p> <p>2503 jobs created</p> <p>850 jobs safeguarded</p> <p>963 additional enterprises accessing ICT products</p> <p>1,000 additional enterprises encouraged to take up broadband</p> <p>TBC ha infrastructure site developed TBC enterprises protected against the risk of flooding</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>347 enterprises receiving support</p> <p>174 new enterprises supported</p>
<p><b>Low Carbon Economy (TO4)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social housing retrofitting FEI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build the market in low carbon technologies, goods and services, supporting SMEs to develop new technology and processes</li> <li>• Develop community and industry energy solutions, such as district heating, solar PV and electric vehicle charging points</li> <li>• Invest in the retrofitting of social housing to improve energy efficiency, generate jobs and</li> </ul>	<p>Outputs TBC</p> <p>Outputs TBC</p>

	incentivise efficiency measures in new house building.	
--	--	--

**ESF (£69.39m)**

Theme	Interventions	Outputs
Employment (TO8) (Youth Employment Initiative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide relevant work related experience and training and support young people with the move from education / training into work</li> <li>■ Incentivise employers to create jobs and provide appropriate training</li> <li>■ Reduce the number of 15-24 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (or at risk of becoming NEET) through focused careers information, advice and guidance linked to local job opportunities; and access to sustainable employment through appropriate support</li> </ul>	17,968 total number of participants 5,319 employed upon leaving
Social Inclusion (TO9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide holistic and bespoke support for individuals and communities who are disadvantaged/furthest away from the labour market to improve their prospects for employment and encourage positive engagement with local communities. Achieved through three themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Employability</li> <li>○ Capacity Building</li> <li>○ Financial inclusion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	9,253 total number of participants 925 employed upon leaving
Skills (TO10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Coordinate and provide cross sector skills activities and targeted training through the Tees Valley Skills Hub, offering individuals the opportunity to secure employment / self-employment</li> <li>■ Increase the availability of intermediate, advanced and higher level apprenticeships to support sector growth</li> <li>■ Support enterprises to plan and develop their workforce through targeted training, including the development of higher level skills</li> <li>■ Support employers, training providers and learners to understand the existing and future jobs provision and ensure skills and training provision meets these needs</li> </ul>	4704 total number of participants 1404 employed upon leaving
EAFRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Support rural businesses through tailored business support, providing a top up from the Business Growth Hub and other SME Competitiveness support</li> </ul>	41 jobs created (TBD) Other outputs TBD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Encourage the establishment and growth of new and existing firms in rural areas (through bringing groups of SMEs together, creating a Rural Business Growth Hub, supporting the development of food and equestrian sectors, the re-use of redundant buildings and encouraging supply chain development)</li> <li>■ Support superfast broadband connectivity in rural areas and the provision of rural transport solutions</li> </ul>	
--	---	--

## 5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 TVU has submitted the final version of the ESIFS to Government and is awaiting feedback. TVU has produced an Executive Summary in the form of a short brochure to share with key stakeholders and partners. This is available on TVU's website.
- 5.2 It is anticipated the Government will agree the Strategy by the end of March 2014. TVU will work on an implementation plan with the likelihood of funding being available in late 2014/early 2015. The phasing of the drawing down of funds will be developed and incorporated into the ESIFS implementation plan.

## 6. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 At this stage there are no other specific legal or financial implications, however EU funding brings a raft of legal and financial obligations including potential claw back. All these risks will be considered and a range of risk mitigation measures will be implemented with robust monitoring and auditing frameworks to ensure that all activity is compliant with appropriate conditions of funding. The claw back conditions are normally imposed on organisations that receive the funding. In addition most funding is provided retrospectively on achievement of outputs, therefore risks are substantially mitigated.

## 7. IMPACT ON CHILD / FAMILY POVERTY

- 7.1 This funding will positively contribute to the development of job creation and business formation and growth tackling the longer term causes and consequences of child and family poverty by preventing young people from becoming long term NEET by providing individuals with skills and experience that will enable them to reach their aspirational goals and become economically active.

## **8. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 This funding will positively contribute to Section 17 by providing employment routeways for young people. It will also provide routeways for individuals who may have been identified as high risk of offending.

## **9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 This funding will provide opportunities for all Tees Valley residents. The programme will assist in the development of the local economy and many of the measures with ESIFS will assist disadvantaged residents to take advantage of business and employment opportunities.

## **10. CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER COUNCIL PROJECTS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

- 10.1 This funding will benefit other Council business and employment initiatives and will also support a broad range of key Council partners including the voluntary and community sector. The project will positively contribute to the following indicators: -

- Business start up rates;
- Business survival rates;
- Numbers of jobs created;
- Improving the Overall Employment Rate;
- Improving the Overall Youth Employment Rate;
- Reducing the Youth Unemployment Rate, and;
- Reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

## **11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 That Members note the contents of this report and that further update reports will be submitted to this Committee.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1 The [Tees Valley European Structural & Investment Funds Strategy](#) (ESIFS) for 2014 – 2020.

## **13. CONTACT OFFICER**

Damien Wilson  
Assistant Director (Regeneration)  
Level 3



Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523400  
E-mail: [damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Antony Steinberg  
Economic Regeneration Manager  
Hartlepool Enterprise Centre  
Brougham Terrace  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8EY

Tel: (01429) 523503  
E-mail: [antony.steinberg@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:antony.steinberg@hartlepool.gov.uk)

# REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

10<sup>th</sup> April 2014



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Regeneration)

**Subject:** TEES VALLEY BUSINESS GROWTH HUB AND  
TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED SKILLS &  
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Tees Valley Business Growth Hub (TVBGH) and the Tees Valley Skills and Apprenticeship Programme (TVSAP). The projects are funded through the Regional Growth Fund and cover the whole of the Tees Valley.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The TVBGH is an enhanced business support programme which will improve coordination of business support services across the Tees Valley. It is funded through Lancaster University RGF funding, matched with local public and private sector funds. A total of £2.379m is available to fund interventions.

3.2 In March 2013, Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) submitted an application to Round 4 of the Regional Growth Fund for TVSAP. Although the full application was not supported, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) awarded funding to an element of the programme.

3.3 TVSAP was therefore announced in July 2013 with an allocation of £7million to create 700 jobs across the Tees Valley. However, there have been delays in TVU receiving the contract.

## 4. AIMS OF THE PROGRAMMES

4.1 TVBGH offer is based upon; filling gaps within the current business support offer in Tees Valley; learning lessons from what has worked in previous and current programmes; maximising current market opportunities for Tees Valley businesses, particularly in international markets; responding to

challenges that local businesses face; and improving the visibility and delivery of business support. The programme will create 100 new jobs and will achieve 500 business interventions.

- 4.2 The aim of the TVSAP is to deliver a programme which will create 700 jobs within the Tees Valley. This will also lever in at least £11.7m from private sector investment through an overall fund of £7 million.

## 5. OFFER

- 5.1 TVBGH will offer business investment grants with a budget of £2m to encourage business investment and job creation. Projects will require a minimum £100k spend and it anticipated that the grant will be 20% of eligible investment costs. The grant will only be available for Small Medium Enterprises (SME's). This differentiates the programme from locally provided grants in terms of size of projects that can be supported.
- 5.2 In addition there will be the creation of 4 specialist business support officers including 2 SME advisors, an innovation advisor and a supply chain advisor.
- 5.3 The Hub element of the project has a total budget of £379k. The Hub's coordination role will bring together all current business support providers, including TVU, Tees Valley local authorities, universities and knowledge centres (e.g. CPI, TWI, Teesside University), business representative groups (NECC, CBI, IoD, FSB) and specialist providers (MAS, GA, UKTI). Their role will be to promote to Hub and encourage cross-referral.
- 5.4 TVBGH will improve access to services and allow businesses to be signposted to the appropriate type of business support, working on the 'no wrong door' principle. Better coordination will take place between existing partners, including national programme providers and all those that engage with businesses. The Hub will not seek to funnel Tees Valley businesses through a single point, but rather to join up, coordinate and amplify existing local and national business support products and services through the concept of 'no wrong door'.
- 5.5 TVSAP offers a generous incentive to employers, particularly those from growth sector areas, who are located in the Tees Valley including: -
- A wage subsidy payable to (non-public sector) businesses, who agree to create new (or safeguard existing) jobs for a period of 2 years. The scheme will encourage companies to take on additional employees, e.g. apprentices/ graduates, of variable levels as befits their business/sector. In return, TVU will pay (as grant) a wage subsidy for the first year, up to a maximum grant of 50% salary (or £11,000 if lower).
  - There is also a small Flexible Fund to assist with additional targeted training or other alternative intervention where that is a barrier.

## 6. ELIGIBILITY

- 6.1 All SME's in the Tees Valley potentially can be supported without any sectoral exclusions (subject to state aid) but with a focus on key sectors including advanced manufacturing, process industry and energy.
- 6.2 To access TVSAP all companies have to be based in the Tees Valley and not be from the-public sector. Also, companies need to do a minimum of 50% of their work with other businesses.

## 7. **TIMESCALES**

- 7.1 TVBGH will run from January 2014 until March 2015 and it is anticipated the programme will continue post March 2015 supported by European and Local Growth funding.
- 7.2 The programme will be delivered between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 with all jobs having to be sustained for a minimum of 24 months.

## 8. **CURRENT PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 8.1 The offer letter from Lancaster University has been received and signed off and actions are in place to commence delivery of TVBGH.
- 8.2 The five Tees Valley Local Authorities have signed a letter of agreement to share the financial risk on a population basis and the final grant offer letters have been signed by Stockton Borough Council on behalf of TVU.
- 8.3 In respect of TVSAP, at the request of BIS and to evidence the need for the programme, TVU and the five Local Authorities collected a pipeline of applications. This exercise generated huge interest with 193 applications received by 31<sup>st</sup> January. After an initial sift to remove those applications which were clearly ineligible the following remained: -
- 156 Applications;
  - 441 New Jobs Created and 36 Jobs Safeguarded;
  - £2.7m Funding Required from Grant, and;
  - £8.6m Match Funding Generated from Employers.
- 8.4 This was achieved in a three week period without any formal launch of the project which indicates that the target of 700 jobs is both reasonable and achievable.
- 8.5 A full Operational Plan and Investment Appraisal for the programme have been completed by TVU and sent to BIS. The TVSAP was approved by the

Regional Growth Fund (RGF) Financial Investment Committee on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

## 9. NEXT STEPS

9.1 As the programme has been approved by the RGF Financial Investment Committee and Lancaster University only the following actions remain: -

- Procure business grants delivery model, and;
- Programme is launched with significant marketing to businesses across the Tees Valley.

## 10. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The standard RGF offer letters contains claw back provisions. Under the claw-back conditions, BIS may require repayment of grant funding already drawn down by TVU/Accountable Body in respect of all management and delivery costs if, in their opinion, TVU/Accountable Body have failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the offer letters.

10.2 As the accountable body of TVU, Stockton Borough Council requires all five local authorities benefitting from the programme agree to share any risk associated with the claw-back conditions. The main risk associated with TVBGH is achieving 100 jobs. The number of businesses supported and matched private sector leverage are not a condition of the funding. In terms of TVSAP the main risks are related to the target of jobs created / safeguarded of 700, £11.7m private investment and also, in the unlikely event that the project is halted mid-point in the delivery stage, there would then be the contracted staffing costs to consider. Based on known current demand from the business community the targets are realistic and achievable. In addition regular ongoing monitoring will be undertaken to ensure the programmes are achieving and if not an improvement plan will be put in place. In addition most funding is provided retrospectively on achievement of outputs, therefore risks are substantially mitigated.

10.3 Risks will be shared by the five Local Authorities on a population basis, minimising Hartlepool Councils exposure.

10.4 Owing to pressures to commence delivery of the project; under delegated powers, the Chief Finance Officer signed the letter of approval for the programme on behalf of the Council. This was supported by Chief Solicitor, Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

## 11. STAFFING CONSIDERATIONS

11.1 The TVBGH and TVSAP will be managed by TVU with recruitment under way for staff. This will include a Funding Contract Manager, Monitoring

Officer, Skills Intelligence Officer, 2 Development Officers, 2 SME Advisors, 1 Innovation Advisor and 1 Supply Chain Advisor.

## **12. IMPACT ON CHILD / FAMILY POVERTY**

- 12.1 TVBGH and TVSAP will positively contribute to tackling the longer term causes and consequences of child and family poverty by driving up economic growth and supporting working age adults into sustained employment which is the only way of moving a family out of poverty.

## **13. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 13.1 TVSAP will positively contribute to Section 17 by providing employment routeways for young people. It will also provide routeways for individuals who may have been identified as high risk of offending.

## **14. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 14.1 TVSAP will support young people into employment particularly amongst vulnerable groups such as the seven priority groups shown below: -
- Looked after children and care leavers;
  - Young offenders (including those leaving the secure estate);
  - Teenage parents;
  - Young carers;
  - Young people with specific learning difficulties and/or disabilities (SLDD);
  - Young people with mental health issues, and;
  - Young people with drug and alcohol misuse issues.

## **15. CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER COUNCIL PROJECTS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

- 15.1 This project will benefit other Council economic and employment initiatives, it will positively contribute to the following indicators: -
- Business stock;
  - Business survival rates;
  - Numbers of jobs created;
  - Improving the Overall Employment Rate;
  - Improving the Overall Youth Employment Rate;
  - Reducing the Youth Unemployment Rate, and;
  - Reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

**16. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 16.1 That the report is noted for information and further update reports will be submitted to this Committee.

**17. CONTACT OFFICER**

Damien Wilson  
Assistant Director (Regeneration)  
Level 3  
Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523400  
E-mail: [damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Chris Little  
Chief Finance Officer  
Level 3  
Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523003  
E-mail: [chris.little@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:chris.little@hartlepool.gov.uk)