

## Tees Valley Combined Authority Update – March 2018

<b>City of Culture 2025</b>	Preparations are beginning for our City of Culture 2025 bid. Workshops have taken place with Local Authorities and cultural sector leaders and work is now underway to develop a wide-reaching programme of engagement with communities and other stakeholders.
<b>Heritage and Attraction Development</b>	<p><b>Railway</b></p> <p>A rail heritage programme is in development across three key strands 1) Conservation and Management 2) Visitor attraction development 3) 2025 bi-centenary. Programme and delivery plan to be finalised by April 2018. Application to Historic England to become a Heritage Action Zone was successful and a tour was held with key Historic England and partner staff this month. The HAZ will go live in May and a dedicated Project Manager will be put in place to drive it forward. Other live projects at the moment include a HLF 'Resilient Heritage' application to look at formalising the governance around the programme and commissioned work to develop 1) S&amp;DR Interpretation Plan 2) Bi-Centenary event business case development 3) Access/ecology audits of the line 4) Project development work to progress the Rail Heritage Quarter in Darlington (a £12m+ visitor attraction project).</p>
<b>Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund</b>	TVCA submitted a £4m bid for the first phase of the Rail Heritage Quarter in Darlington. The project will see the development of a major railway heritage visitor attraction in Tees Valley as part of the wider Rail Heritage Programme. A decision from DCMS is expected by the end of the month.
<b>Route 66</b>	Early discussions are taking place around the idea of a 'cultural corridor' from West Cumbria to Tees Valley following the route of the A66 and connecting places of similar background such as Whitehaven and Penrith and County Durham, with Redcar, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton, Darlington and including all rural areas along the route. Cultural investment has been generally low on both sides of the country.
<b>Tourism</b>	<p>STEAM and visitor research has been completed and shared.</p> <p>The new 'Enjoy Tess Valley' website will launch next week as part of English Tourism Week.</p>
<b>Tees Valley Culture Leads</b>	This group is currently focusing on the Northern Legacy Culture Fund and preparations for City of Culture 2025.
<b>Capacity Building</b>	We are developing a sector based set of three-four year plans to look at art form and sector based development. This would allow us to create more highly skilled artists and identify other / new artists – whilst supporting these to grow and develop.