

## TVEP Vision, Roadmapping exercise

### Summary

This project, facilitated by Future Matters, has now been completed and a summary of the results are listed below:

Following a broad ranging discussion it was agreed to focus on 3 main areas:

1. An R&D Centre for engineering in the Tees Valley.
2. The profile of engineering and the impact on education
3. Repatriation of local engineers

1. R&D for local companies is expensive and difficult to get at. There are some large company exceptions.

To remain competitive into the longer term it will be necessary to raise skills and knowledge levels using new products, processes and materials.

Whilst a significant number of companies do not engage with the universities and centres of excellence, for those that do there is confusion about the capability and quality of the provision.

This project is about – how do you get information about the provision and funding and how can we use what we have to bring this expertise together for the benefit of the industry, bearing in mind the appropriate expertise is not necessarily in this region.

Interestingly the Northeast has a low R&D base but high IP registration.

**The initial proposal for this project (which will sit within the technology group) is that TVEP investigates the Proctor and Gamble ‘connect and develop’ initiative and seeks to emulate a similar collaborative and partnering opportunity for the partnership members.**

2. This workshop looked, in some detail, at the issues surrounding the identification of suitable young people and their progression through the various levels of education into engineering careers.

The requirement for the industry to become more pro-active was agreed. The need to make the sector more attractive to engage people at all ages.

A number of barriers to progress were discussed including the insufficient number of apprentices coming through, companies poaching rather than training and the lack of accreditation for University of Teesside engineering courses.

**The proposal for this project is that TVEP aspires to become a beacon of good practice for fostering skills for the sector with the development of an 'Engineering Academy'. A public/private sector initiative probably complimentary to and in parallel to the new 14-19 engineering diploma. This project will sit within the remit of the current E&S group.**

3. This workshop initially discussed how to entice Tees Valley engineering ex-pats back into the area to alleviate current skills shortages.

It was strongly suggested that work should be carried out on understanding the scale of the deficits.

It was felt this project is a marketing exercise and would fall into that group's remit. The requirement is to get the right message out about the volume of work and stability of employment in the Tees Valley. There is no way ex-pats would earn as much as they are abroad but they will sleep in their own beds and see more of their families. Perhaps, using the economies of scale of the Engineering Partnership, it may be possible to offer non-cash inducements such as health-care plans, gym membership.

**The proposal is to ask the marketing team to devise a promotional initiative for the engineering sector that links into ONE's 'passionate places' campaign.**