

## **MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL** **25 NOVEMBER 2015**

### **1. SSI**

The Task Force continues to meet weekly. Funding has been released and work is continuing on the following:

- **Tees Valley (SSI) Apprenticeship Fund**  
A fund to support the swift relocation of apprentices who have been made redundant due to the SSI closure.
- **SSI Task Force Flexible Skills Support Fund**  
A package of flexible support to provide top-up training or reskilling, the fund is open to those made redundant from SSI itself, their partners, as well as those similarly affected within contracting companies and the SSI supply chain.
- **SSI Task Force - Funding for Further Education College Courses**  
This fund has enabled Redcar and Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Stockton Riverside and Hartlepool Colleges to offer a package of courses for those affected by the SSI closure.
- **SSI Task Force Business Advice – Start-Up Fund**  
This fund offers former SSI workers advice on starting up their own business. There is also a grant scheme which could provide a start-up grant of up to £10,000.
- **SSI Task Force Safety Net Fund**  
For crisis situations where, due to loss of employment income, there is a severe risk to health, safety and security which cannot be met from another source.
- **SSI Task Force Jobs and Skills Fund**  
A wage subsidy scheme to enable businesses to create new job opportunities and employ former SSI employees, a subsidy of 50% salary cost up to £11,000 is available.
- **Supply Chain & Growth Company Support Fund**  
There are 3 main elements to this fund; a SSI Supply Chain Support Scheme, Capital Grant Scheme and Tees Valley Small Grant Scheme. This scheme aims to support most manufacturing and service sector companies based in the Tees Valley, helping them to grow their business and the local economy in response to the closure of SSI.

Further job losses in the SSI supply chain continue and are approaching 1,000. News from Caparo, Boulby Potash and Air Products have been followed by uncertainties about the future of Tata Steel.

There is work ongoing to mitigate these job losses and to ensure a long term future for Teesside industry. Lord Heseltine has been appointed to help with inward investment. However, future job losses at HMRC in Middlesbrough, Stockton and Thornaby have been announced. The government could stop these. Anything else would betray the warm words of support we have received. We have pointed to the ways in which the government can help.

## **2. Prevent**

The 'Prevent' strategy is an important part of the ways in which we protect our communities. Officers are to undertake awareness training. The recent Members seminar was excellent but was not very well attended. Further training will be arranged and I hope every Councillor will participate.

## **3. Dementia Friendly Town**

There are initiatives helping us to move towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Town. To assist this process, I ask all Councillors to help, firstly by participating in a dementia friendly seminar and then encouraging others to engage in the training.