

ECONOMIC STRATEGY BOARD

**Meeting held at Eston City Learning Centre at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 19th January
2010**

ATTENDEES

Jonathan Spruce	Tees Valley JSU	Acting Chair
Carol Straughan	Stockton BC	
Antony Steinberg	Hartlepool BC	
Mike McNulty	Environment Agency	
Malcolm Potter	TVEP	
Keith Robinson	Vantis PLC	
John Anderson	Darlington BC	
Chris Hawking	Middlesbrough BC	
John Irwin	Storeys:ssp	
Richard Buckley	Tees Valley Regeneration	
Ray Bryant	North Yorks CC	
Robin Beveridge	One North East	
Sarah Tennison	Tees Valley JSU	
Sarah Johnson	Tees Valley JSU	

APOLOGIES

Councillor John Williams	Darlington BC
Nigel Perry	Centre for Process Innovation
Jonathan Lamb	Business Link North East
Stan Higgins	NEPIC
Richard Poundford	Stockton on Tees BC
Jochen Werres	North Yorks CC

1 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 NOTES OF THE MEETING ON 14TH JULY 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2009 were agreed as a true record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Bus Network Improvements Major Scheme

JS updated Members with regard the Bus Network Improvements major scheme. The bid for the Tees Valley was being considered by the DfT Infrastructure Investment Committee and a decision was expected in the next couple of weeks.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

4 NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

Members of the Board were presented with a report that listed the National Policy Statements (NPS) that had been issued for consultation by Government. The Board was also provided with a summary of the coverage of the NPS and potential implications for the Tees Valley. Key issues included:

- No indication of priority areas for new energy infrastructure provision with the market largely deciding when and where new proposals will come forward
- Insufficient weight given to the statutory development plan and its role in planning future infrastructure requirements
- At regional and sub-regional levels strategic initiatives are being developed to provide a firm basis for making investment decisions about facilitating infrastructure to place the Tees Valley in a strong position to attract new investment and facilitate expansion – the Overarching Energy NPS in particular must acknowledge then need to support future economic strategy and development
- Possible conflicts between increasing fossil fuel generation capacity and the approach to planning for low carbon energy infrastructure
- Little on the relationship between future infrastructure provision and potential development opportunities

It was noted that One NorthEast would be making a collective response with the other Regional Development Agencies. Concerns were raised over allowing the market to bring forward new proposals in the Tees Valley.

It was noted that consultation responses were due back on 17th February.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5 TAKING FORWARD THE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

It was discussed that over the last three months of 2009, the Joint Strategy Unit had prepared The Low Carbon Economic Transition Plan showing how the City Region could benefit from the potential growth in low carbon industry, building upon existing strengths. The Plan concluded with a series of eight key actions to maximise these opportunities.

It was reported that the specific actions had now been superseded by the need to take forward priorities within the Government's £60 million support package, called the Tees Valley Industrial Investment Programme, in the wake of the news about the mothballing of Corus' operations at Redcar.

It had been made clear by Government that ONE and BIS held joint responsibility for the expenditure of the £60 million investment programme, as both were contributing £30 million each towards the programme. ONE had also decided to set up a task group to implement the programme.

The Board was given details of the emerging governance structure for the programme and the links with TVU.

The following comments were made:

- A lot of preparation work needed to be done and some elements of the package wouldn't commence until there were redundancies.
 - Too much focus was being given to the petrochemical industry. It was considered that there were problems in other industries which needed to be discussed as part of the package and further representation was needed on the task group.
 - It was expected that other industries would be discussed under each of the workstreams for the task group but the representative from ONE would take back
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the request for further representation.

- It was discussed whether the £30m from ONE would affect other projects. It was noted that decisions would need to be made on this but many factors would need to be taken into consideration.
- It was suggested that the proposed Wider Reference Group should include RSPB in light of recent problems with Stockton's DPD. It was noted that it was important to work with all agencies from the start in order to minimise delays.

It was noted that the Industrial Investment Programme would be a standing item on the Boards agendas.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6 ISSUES ARISING FROM THE BUSINESS CASE WORKSHOPS

The Board was presented with a report on the business case development workshops that had been held so far. The minutes of each of the workshops were provided to the Board and the report set out the key issues arising from the workshops that needed to be addressed.

It was noted that resource planning was important going forward and getting the balance right between the low carbon economy and other sectors.

The business case would be presented to the next Board meeting in April.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

7 FORMAT OF THE BUSINESS CASE

The Board was presented with a report that outlined some suggestions on the format and content of the business case. The Board was informed that there were three issues that came out from the business case development events, all of which would have an impact on the format of the business case. The issues were:

- What does the strategy look like?
 - There was general support for a Total Place approach to housing and regeneration – how do we take this concept forward?
 - There was a need to prioritise our interventions thematically and in terms of geographical priorities for economic development, housing development and
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regeneration – how do we take this forward and build it into the single conversation discussions?

It was noted that the business case was expected to be a high level document of around 20-30 pages supported by a series of delivery plans. The high level document would be a clear and simple strategy and resistant to change.

It was suggested that a summary page could be inserted at the beginning of the document.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8 NORTH SOUTH TEES INDUSTRIAL FRAMEWORK

The Board received a presentation on the North South Tees Industrial Framework.

Leadership was discussed. It was noted that from consultation carried out it was expected to be private sector led but the RDA's role would still be fundamental in whatever form.

It was considered that education and training were a key part of the process. Understanding what skills were needed and working with schools, colleges and universities and also employers was important.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20 April 2010

Meeting to be held at 2.00pm – venue to be confirmed.
