

TEES VALLEY LIVING BOARD

Meeting held at Cavendish House, Thornaby at 5.00pm on Thursday, 15th July 2010

ATTENDEES

Cath Purdy (CP)	Housing Hartlepool	Chair
Cllr Steve Nelson (SN)	Stockton Council	
Cllr Lynn Pallister (LP)	Redcar & Cleveland Council	
Cllr Bill Dixon (BD)	Darlington Council	

OBSERVERS

Anne Mulroy (AM)	Homes & Communities Agency
Jim Darlington (JD)	One NorthEast
Diana Pearce (DP)	Government Office North East
Janine Turner (JT)	Middlesbrough Council
Pauline Mitchell (PM)	Darlington Council
Lee Savage (LS)	Redcar & Cleveland Council
Iain Sim (IS)	Coast & Country Housing
Michael Bullock (MB)	Arc4
Phillip Barnes (PB)	Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners
John Lowther (JL)	Tees Valley Unlimited
Jim Johnstone (JJ)	Tees Valley Living
Mike Mealing (MM)	Tees Valley Living
Jennine Robson (JR)	Tees Valley Living
Sarah Johnson (SJ)	Tees Valley Unlimited

Richard Buckley	Tees Valley Unlimited
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APOLOGIES

Alison Thain	Tees Valley Housing/Fabrick
Ian Wardle	Redcar & Cleveland Council
Angela Lockwood	Endeavour Housing Association
Cllr David Budd	Middlesbrough Council
Cllr Charles Rooney	Middlesbrough Council
Julie Nixon	Stockton BC
Stuart Drummond	Hartlepool Council

1 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

2 NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH MARCH 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2010 were agreed as a true record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

The visit that had been planned to the Building Research Establishment in Watford was no longer going ahead due to the high cost involved. Northern Architecture had been asked to suggest an alternative site closer to the Tees Valley.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

4 DISCUSSION OF CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS

A report on the current market conditions was circulated to Board members for their information, entitled Tees Valley Housing Market Intelligence Update Summer 2010

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

5 PRESENTATION OF THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE TEES VALLEY HOUSING IMPACT AND ASPIRATIONS STUDY

The Board was given a presentation from Arc4/Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners on the preliminary findings of the Tees Valley Housing Impact and Aspirations Study.

The following comments were made:

- There needed to be more of a focus on the place as well as housing. More detail was needed on St Hilda's in terms of the clearance generating confidence and inward investment.
- The consultants were requested to advise on the right housing product, locations and neighbourhood characteristics to attract the identified target groups.
- The Local Authorities needed to provide as much information as possible to assist with the study going forwards.
- Some base information was needed on the first step into the market e.g. apartments.

The first draft of the report would be circulated to the Directors of Regeneration in August and then forwarded to the Board to

be signed off.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

6 TEES VALLEY LOCAL INVESTMENT PLAN PROGRESS

The Board was given an update on the current position of the development of the Tees Valley Local Investment Plan. Details were also given on the format of the document and its proposed timetable for preparation.

It was noted that there had been some good discussions in relation to the housing agenda and that this work was being worked into the plan.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

7 DRAFT STATEMENT OF HOUSING AMBITION

The Board considered the Draft Statement of Housing Ambition (SHA). The SHA was a synopsis of the key issues within the Tees Valley replacement Sub-regional Housing Strategy. The SHA would be used to communicate the key issues and challenges to the Homes & Communities Agency and other key stakeholders.

The key issues and action points within the document would also inform the preparation of the Tees Valley Local Investment Plan.

The following changes were requested :-

- The document should acknowledge the role of Registered Providers as broader than just being a landlord. More focus was needed on the 'housing plus' element such as employment and skills and worklessness etc. The RPs worked closely with communities on social inclusion etc and it was considered that this aspect may not be adequately covered in the document.
- A major role for LAs in the regeneration areas in the future will be neighbourhood management, to ensure that communities are sustainable.
- The live work units picture at Boho actually shows "Digital City" the caption therefore needs to change.

RESOLVED that the Tees Valley Statement of Housing Ambition be approved.

8 TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED REVIEW

The Board was given an update on the Tees Valley Unlimited Review. The Board was informed that Les Southerton had been appointed as interim Managing Director. His role was to drive the review process going forward in terms of looking at the structure of TVU and the senior management structure, the future budgets and also business planning work. Martin Waters had also been appointed as Project Manager and would be looking at the more detailed work.

A report on the basic principles of the review was currently going to the Local Authorities Cabinets. A proposal to replace the current sub board structure with task and finish group was being looked at. The task and finish groups would have more focus on issues that needed dealing with at that point in time. Board members expressed some reservations that Housing issues may be regarded as suitable subjects for a "Task and Finish" group.

In terms of LEPs the Board was informed that TVU would be putting forward a submission to CLG and BIS to become a LEP. TVU would be supporting a wider proposal for a regional organisation to carry out work at a regional level.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

9 TEES VALLEY HMR PROGRAMME – END OF YEAR REPORT 2009/10

The Board was presented with a report that gave details of the end of year summary of grant expenditure, additional investment and outputs achieved between 1st April 2009 and 31st March 2010.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10 TEES VALLEY HMR PROGRAMME 2010/11

The Board was presented with a report that discussed the recent Government announcements relating to HMR Pathfinder grant allocations for 2010/11 and considered current proposals and likely implications. The report also considered the implications of recent announcements for the Tees Valley HMR programme.

It was noted that an announcement on Friday had set out 17.482 % cuts for the HMR grant allocations which was more than the anticipated 16%. It was also noted that The vired money from Stockton had been paid back and would be

deducted from this years programme.

The government was looking at the legal and financial implications of un-ringfencing money

RESOLVED that

1. The HMR Pathfinder grant allocations for 2010-11 be approved.
2. The need for Councils to discuss with TVL any proposed changes to the SHIP Objective 1 grant allocation be supported.
3. The 2010-11 programme of grant expenditure and outputs be approved, with the knowledge that these will form the basis of targets agreed with HCA for the 2010-11 Funding Agreement.
4. The risks and contingency arrangements set out for each TVL-assisted HMR scheme be acknowledged.
5. The Board considers what steps should be put in place to position the sub-region for further HMR funding post 31.03.11.

11 TEES VALLEY GROWTH POINT PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Board considered a report that provided an end of year summary of the grant expenditure and outputs achieved between April 1st 2009 and 31st March 2010. It also gave details of potential changes to the PoD for 2010/11.

It was noted that work on how growth was linked to the localism agenda had been requested. The Local Authorities would be putting together information of what work they had been doing and TVU would be compiling this into one document for the Tees Valley. A submission would be made to Housing Minister Grant Shapps before the end of July.

RESOLVED that PoD progress be noted and that the changes to the PoD for 2010/11 be approved.

12 AUDIT COMMISSION PERFORMANCE REVIEW ACTION PLAN 2010-11

Consideration was given to a report that sought approval of the draft action plan, in response to the Audit Commission

Performance Review recommendations. It was noted that recommendation No. 5 concerned governance and the full integration of Housing Market Renewal into the Tees Valley Unlimited governance structure. This recommendation was not therefore addressed by the report and the Audit Commission had accepted the position. Progress on the action plan would be reported to the Board on a quarterly basis.

The Board raised concerns over the proposed visit changing from December to September as the action plan would only be in its early stages of delivery. It was agreed that these concerns would be raised with the Audit Commission.

JJ

RESOLVED that the Audit Commission Performance Review Action Plan be approved.

13 HMR REVENUE BUDGET 2009/11

The Board considered a report that set out proposals for revenue expenditure covering staff and administrative cost, and with suggestions as to research projects that may benefit the development of housing growth and renewal strategies in the future.

It was noted that although the capital element of the Housing Market Renewal Fund had been reduced by £50 million nationally, the Homes and Communities Agency had indicated that there would be no reduction in the level of revenue funding allocated to each Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder. The level of funding was to remain at the 2009-10 figure, which meant that Tees Valley Living would receive £330,000 for 2010-11.

RESOLVED that:

1. The current revenue budget position be noted.
2. The Board agrees to further work being carried out to determine the scope and nature of potential research commissions that could be completed and funded in the current financial year.

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was decided to bring the next scheduled meeting of the Board forward from 14th October 2010 to **5pm Thursday 16th September** in Cavendish House, in order that the Board could

Action

consider the current position with regard to the Local Investment Plan, the Audit Commission Action Plan and the transition of Tees Valley Living into Tees Valley Unlimited.

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