

ECONOMIC STRATEGY BOARD

Meeting held at City Learning Centre, Eston at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 14th July 2009

ATTENDEES

Councillor David Budd	Middlesbrough BC	Chair
Mike McNulty	Environment Agency	
Keith Robinson	Keith Robinson & Co	
Steve Petch	Darlington BC	
Ray Bryant	North Yorkshire CC	
Stan Higgins	NEPIC	
Richard Buckley	Tees Valley Regeneration	
Richard Poundford	Stockton on Tees BC	
Jonathan Lamb	Business Enterprise North East	
Susan Hanley	ONE	
Sandra Cartlidge		
Graham Collinge	GENECON	
Malcolm Steele	TVJSU	
John Lowther	TVJSU	
Jonathan Spruce	TVJSU	
Sarah Johnson	Stockton BC	

APOLOGIES

Councillor John Williams	Darlington BC
Councillor Mark Hannon	Redcar and Cleveland BC
Councillor Bob Cook	Stockton on Tees BC
Malcolm Potter	Tees Engineering Alliance
Nigel Kidwell	Jackson Solicitors
Nigel Perry	Centre for Process Innovation
John Anderson	Darlington BC
Martyn Pellew	PD Ports

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Councillor David Budd be appointed Chairman for this meeting only.

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

3 NOTES OF MEETING ON 21 APRIL 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2009 were agreed as a true record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements

It was noted that a bid of £62 million had been granted entry to the Government's forward programme. Market prices were expected at the end of the year. The project was expected to start early 2010 and be finished by 2012.

Regional Funding Advice Round 2

It was explained that although the advice had been submitted at the end of February there had been issues with the A19 schemes. At a meeting of the Interim Transport Board, chaired by Nick Brown, it was explained that forecasted under spending over the next 3 years needed to be corrected. Two of the A19 schemes in North Tyneside had now slipped to 2017/18. As a result, £30 million had been contributed to the Tees Valley Metro Phase 1 and £5 million to the East Billingham Corridor. Money could also potentially be allocated to regional smart ticketing scheme, which was to be rolled out by 2012.

Community Infrastructure Fund

The Board was informed that since the last meeting the bid had been submitted. This was a £4 million scheme to improve conditions on the A19 and A66 to allow the housing growth point sites to go ahead. It was expected that an answer would be received later in July.

5 NORTH AND SOUTH TEES PROJECT UPDATE

Members were provided with an update on the North and South Tees project.

It was explained that a detailed presentation would be given at the next meeting as the study was due to be complete in late September/early October.

The Board was given details of the draft stage 1 reports that had been received. The key issues coming from the reports were highlighted and it was noted that they were currently being reviewed before being issued in final form.

The Board was informed that in order to test the research so far, two workshops had been held one for the public sector and one for the private sector. Details of the initial feedback received from the workshops were provided to the Board. Board members noted that there had been a good attendance at the workshops and that it would be good to feedback to the attendees. JS noted that the consultants were currently doing a summary report and that a link to this would be sent round to those that had attended.

The Board discussed the Health and Safety Executives 'Advise Against' recommendations. JS noted that TVJSU would be going to the HSE with a longer term plan and that detailed discussions would take place to resolve any issues for the North and South Tees in order to minimise risk.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6 DURHAM TEES VALLEY AIRPORT

Consideration was given to a report relating to Durham Tees Valley Airport.

It was explained that in response to the recent consultation on Reforming the Framework for the Economic Regulation for UK Airports, the Joint Strategy Unit had prepared a submission on behalf of the Local Authorities. A copy of the submission was provided to the Board.

In summary, the response rejected totally the proposals and arguments put forward in the proposed regulatory framework justifying the lack of any proposals for the maintenance of regional connectivity to Heathrow, an issue that had been raised by Members previously.

It was noted that discussions were continuing with the Regional Minister and his counterparts in Yorkshire and Humber and the South West, as well as through The Northern Way to try to form a coalition of similar views on regional airport connectivity in an attempt to signal to Government the consequences of the current regulatory framework to regional airports and the clear need for change.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7 CORUS TASK FORCE

The Board received a presentation on the Corus Task Force.

It was noted that TVU were working on proposals for the North East to become a centre of excellence for energy and low carbon economy. It was considered that a joint task force with the Government could deliver the new economy for the Tees Valley. A budget for the work was currently being worked up. It was considered that Government involvement from the beginning was important.

The draft proposal had been submitted to ONE who were currently drafting a response.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

8 ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Board was reminded that they had received a previous presentation on the outcomes of a study into developing a Green Infrastructure network across the Tees Valley and also an update at the last meeting on more recent work to determine the economic benefits of green infrastructure.

MS commented that the strategy had a lot of support in the Tees Valley to establish the best way forward for implementation. A lot of agencies were interested and had made financial contributions. It was considered that it could be held up as a national example of good practice.

The Board received a presentation from GC of GENECON consultants on the key findings of their work.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- Tuesday 13 October 2009
- Tuesday 19 January 2010
- Tuesday 20 April 2010

Meetings to be held at 2pm – venues to be confirmed.
