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**ECONOMIC STRATEGY BOARD**

**Meeting held at Castlegate Quay, Moat Street, Stockton on Tees, TS18 3AZ at  
2.00pm on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

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**ATTENDEES**

Councillor David Budd	Middlesbrough BC	Chair
Peter Scott	Hartlepool BC	
Ian Wardle	Redcar and Cleveland BC	
Mike McNulty	Environment Agency	
Stan Higgins	NEPIC	
Malcolm Potter	Tees Engineering Alliance	
Paul Whitaker	North Yorkshire County Council	
Keith Robinson	Keith Robinson and Co	
John Anderson	Darlington Borough Council	
John Lowther	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	
Jonathan Spruce	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	
Linda Edworthy	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	
Peter Bell	Stockton on Tees BC	
Graham Tebbitt	Durham County Council	
Nigel Orr	Tees Valley Regeneration	
Carol Straughan	Stockton on Tees BC	
Chris Hawking	Middlesbrough BC	
Sarah MacMillian	ONE NorthEast	

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**APOLOGIES**

Councillor John Williams	Darlington BC
Councillor Bob Cook	Stockton on Tees BC
Councillor Mark Hannon	Redcar and Cleveland B C
Stuart Drummond	Hartlepool BC
Tim White	Middlesbrough BC
Richard Alty	Darlington BC
Richard Poundford	Stockton BC
Joe Docherty	Tees Valley Regeneration
Stan Higgins	NEPIC
Emma Speight	One NorthEast
Jonathan Iamb	Business Link North East
Malcolm Bowes	North East Assembly
Nigel Perry	Centre for Process Innovation
John Irwin	Story:ssp
Bob Hope	Wear Valley/Easington/Sedgefield DC
Bob Ward	Durham County Council

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**1 CHAIR'S WELCOME**

The Chairman (BC) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

**2 NOTES OF THE MEETING ON 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008 were agreed as a true record.

**3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interests declared.

**4 MATTERS ARISING**

Sub National Review – Joint Response of ANEC, One North East and the North East Assembly to the sub national Review

**JL** reported that with regard the 14 – 19 arrangements there would be a consortium for the five Tees Valley authorities. This was being drawn up by the Director for Education and should be available for the next meeting.

JL to provide report for the next meeting

**5 PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

Members were presented with a report that set out the Key Work Programme for Tees Valley Unlimited over the next 6 to 9 months and to show how this related to implementing the Tees Valley Business Case, implementing the Multi Area Agreement and influencing the Regional Funding Allocation 2 process which would begin in the autumn. The report was short and designed to give the Sub Board an overview of the progress of the work programme and its relationship to the Business Case.

The report covered the following main areas:-

1. Tees Valley City Region Business Case and the Multi Area Agreement.
2. Developing Economic Assets
3. Taking forward the MAA – Regeneration/Housing Programmes
4. Taking forward the MAA – Transport
5. Tackling Urban Competitiveness

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**6 WILTON INNOVATION CONNECTOR AND DIGITAL CITY – INVESTMENT PLAN FOR EUROPEAN FUNDING**

Members were presented with the Wilton Innovation Connector Strategy and Investment Plan and the Digital City Investment Plan which had been submitted to One NorthEast for consideration for funding from the European Regional Development Fund (2006 – 13 programme).

The Wilton Innovation Connector Strategy had three main components:-

1. A Community Outreach and Visitor Engagement Centre.
2. A WIC Training Centre
3. A new business incubator for the Process Industry

The capital cost of the Wilton Innovation Connector proposals was £34.8m over period 2009-2011. The ERDF funding required was £13.5m over the same period.

The Digital City Investment Plan comprised a series of projects across the Tees Valley to really embed the Digital City concept in the economy and the community. The proposals in the investment plan were:

1. The development of Boho 4
2. Digital City at Thornaby Town Hall
3. Public Space (Connecting the Connectors)
4. Hope in Digital City

The five projects would cost £13.555 million over 2009/11 period. ERDF grant requested was £6.6 million. £4.183 million single programme matched funding would be required.

Digital City also made it clear that it intended to submit a further package in the future. They were:

Boho 5  
Institute of Digital Innovation Phase 4  
Redcar and Cleveland Hub  
Darlington Digital City Hub  
Digital City Community Champions  
Public Space Development

The next stage was for ONE to consider both investment plans and then to give approval for detailed business cases to be prepared. Both investment plans were innovative and imaginative and would do much to take forward the development of both clusters in the Tees Valley.

RESOLVED that both investment plans be supported in principle.

**7 REGIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATION AND SUB NATIONAL REVIEW**

The RDA Board and the Leaders' Forum had been asked to provide advice to Government by February 2009 on the expenditure of the regional funding allocation on major transport schemes, housing (i.e. Regional Housing Board budget), economic development (ONE budget), regeneration (ONE and Homes and Communities Agency) and the priorities for expenditure on adult skills. Two groups had been set up to carry out this work – a Coordination Group jointly chaired by Alan Clarke and Roger Kelly (on which Paul Walker represented the Tees Valley) and a working group (on which John Lowther represented the Tees Valley). The issues which were being raised were detailed within the report.

The Government's response to the sub national review was due to be released at the end of October 2008. As a temporary arrangement ANEC proposed that ANEC become the regional planning body with the Leaders' Forum and three or four other partners becoming the final decision making body on regional planning matters. The Government could decide that this arrangement should be the permanent solution for approving the Integrated Regional Strategy.

Members discussed the transport cost increases and the fact that some schemes may have to be re-evaluated. Members also discussed whether 10% of the work allocation would be top sliced to fund a Regional Infrastructure Fund and which budget it would be taken from. It was reported that no decision had been made as what areas the money would come from.

RESOLVED that the Members comments be noted.

**8 PRESENTATION ON THE HOUSING GROWTH POINT DELIVERY PLAN**

Members were given a presentation by John Lowther on the Housing Growth Delivery Plan.

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

**9 CREDIT CRUNCH TASK FORCE INTERIM REPORT**

A discussion took place on the implications of the credit crunch on the Tees Valley.

With regard house building it was reported that it would take time for the market to build up again and that brown field sites would still be used in the future. Cost cutting had happened across the whole board but the Tees Valley overall strategy was sound. Work needed to be done on the best way to deliver the Tees Valley strategy. It

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was felt that once the market turned the Tees Valley would be in a good position due to the good planning and a sound strategy.

It was reported that trainees/apprentices were still needed in the engineering and process industry.

Overall Members felt that the Tees Valley hadn't been hit really badly yet and that the Tees Valley had a robustness about it.

RESOLVED that Members comments be noted.

## **10 TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

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Members were presented with a report on the initial proposal for the Tees Valley Unlimited Annual Conference to be held in January 2009.

It was recognised that an annual conference was needed to communicate with the broader partnership the work of Tees Valley Unlimited and receive feedback.

The objectives and target audiences for the conference were detailed within the report.

It had been suggested that the first TVU Business Dinner be held the evening before the conference (potentially the Thursday evening with the conference on the Friday) with a speaker such as one from the Bank of England. The conference would start with initial plenary session(s) followed by a series of participating workshops on various key themes. High profile people were needed to facilitate these workshops and a note would be needed afterwards. In the afternoon a series of elective tours could be organised to highlight the development opportunities in Tees Valley and the world class facilities, businesses and developments already located in the Tees Valley.

A high profile person was needed to open the conference. Discussions were taking place with Hazel Blears' office regarding her availability. If Hazel Blears was not available an approach could be made to John Healey the MAA Champion.

An audience of 200 to 250 people was envisaged and a venue was needed which was central and could provide rooms for workshops. Possible options were Wynyard Hall or Wynyard Park. Sir John Hall had indicated that he would sponsor the event, providing the venue free of charge. Other potential sponsors were being approached. The Evening Gazette had shown interest in sponsoring the conference. The Academy for Sustainable Communities had also indicated that they would sponsor the event. One NorthEast had indicated that it could provide in kind support such as film material for use in a promotional DVD which would play in the background at the event and would be available to take away. The New Local Government Network had also indicated that it would like to be involved, potentially facilitating a workshop.

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In terms of timescales to hold an event of the prestige and scale envisaged, to gain the involvement of a Government Minister and to secure the venue January 2009 was being looked. To deliver such an event to this timescale would be challenging and an event management company was needed to organise it.

The views of the Economic Strategy Board were requested and the sub Board's agreement is sought for the JSU to further develop the agenda for the conference along the lines outlined above in consultation with the Chair.

Members supported the idea of an Annual Conference and felt that the promotional DVD would be good tool to use after the Conference to promote the area.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2009

21<sup>st</sup> April 2009

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