

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Meeting held at Wynyard Rooms, Wynyard at 2.00pm on Wednesday 20 May 2009

ATTENDEES

Paul Walker (PW)	Hartlepool Borough Council	(HBC) – Chair
Neil Schneider (NS)	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	(SBC)
Ada Burns (AB)	Darlington Borough Council	(DBC)
Amanda Skelton (AS)	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	(RCBC)
Paul Chapman (PC)	Jobcentre Plus	(JCP)
Ian Jones (IJ)	Learning and Skills Council	(LSC)
Malcolm Page (MP)	One NorthEast	(ONE)
Pat Ritchie (PR)	Homes and Communities Agency	(HCA)
Hilton Heslop (HH)	Government Office North East	(GONE)
Jonathan Spruce (JS)	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	(JSU)
Linda Edworthy (LE)	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	(JSU)

APOLOGIES

Ian Parker	Middlesbrough Borough Council
Liz Mayes	CBI

OBSERVER

Sarah Johnson	SBC
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1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chairman (PW) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

3. NOTES OF THE MEETING ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2009 were agreed as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

RFA2 – The Board was informed that the revised profile would be presented to the Regional Transport Board on 29 May and was due to be signed off after that.

Business Plan – Final changes, in light of the forerunner submission, were currently being made to the business plan. The plan would be circulated to the Board in the near future.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

5. CORUS UPDATE

The Board was presented with a briefing note outlining information in relation to the recent Corus announcement that employees at Teesside Cast Products were facing possible redundancy.

It was explained that ONE had formed a Corus Response Group of public and private sector partners together with MP Vera Baird to offer assistance. The Board was given details of the Groups approach, priorities and workstreams. The Board was also presented with a Corus Action Plan produced by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC). AS provided the Board with an update on what courses of action RCBC were taking in response to the announcement.

The Board made the following comments:

- Information on the supply chain was needed quickly in order for an assessment to be made.
- It was also important to look beyond the immediate response and explore further what TVU could do to help support other opportunities.
- The Directors of Regeneration be requested to expand the Corus Action plan to include the Tees Valley and to

make it clear who is leading on each action.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

6. TAKING FORWARD THE MAA

The Board was presented with a report that set out the current position with the implementation of the Tees Valley Multi Area Agreement (MAA), set out the what had been happening since the announcement of the City Region Forerunners and put forward for consideration, the areas of activity that the TVU might wish to pursue with Government and how to take the work forward.

The Board was provided with details of the key areas of activity that TVU would be asking the Government to commit to if the necessary meeting with the Minister could be arranged. It was noted that the key areas would be expanded upon within a session with senior civil servants and then meetings with individual departments.

The Board made the following comments:-

- It was important not to have too many 'asks' of Government.
- The Tees Valley needed to put a bid in for the Future Jobs Fund. Work on the bid needed to be pulled together in the next 2-3 weeks ready for submission in June.
- Job retention in the Tees Valley was an immediate priority.
- It was considered that rail and road improvements were more medium term issues.

It was noted that TVJSU had been sent the DWP Level 1 Chinese Wall Agreement to sign. This was currently being looked at from a legal perspective and further information would be brought back to the Board.

RESOLVED that officers be delegated to work with colleagues in CLG, with the support of GONE, to achieve the necessary meetings.

7. TEES VALLEY RECESSION REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

The Board was presented with a report that considered recent policy responses to combat the effects of the recession and the regional, sub regional and local initiatives to implement the responses. A short version of the JSU report "Tees Valley Credit Crunch Report, Impact and Policy Responses" was presented to Members which provided details of all the various

initiatives.

In terms of what Tees Valley Unlimited should concentrate on in tackling the current recession the following actions were suggested to the Board:

- In the short term play our part in responding to short term initiatives to deal with the immediate issues at Corus or in the petrochemicals sector;
- Ensure that the intelligence available on the recession was up to date and properly disseminated to partners;
- Prepare for the upturn in the long term by ensuring strategic initiatives were in place to deliver economic impact. A long term investment plan, new regeneration funding models and the MAA were the mechanisms for delivering the long term investment needed;
- Ensure the integrated regional strategy and regional transport programmes reflected the needs of the Tees Valley and contribute to regional initiatives such as ANEC's Task and Finish Group on the credit crunch.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

8. THE SINGLE CONVERSATION

Consideration was given to a report on the Single Conversation. The Executive was asked to give advice on the process of developing the single conversation and the issues raised in the report so that a report could be prepared for future agreement setting out the timescale and process for taking forward the single conversation process.

The Board made the following comments:-

- In terms of engaging with key partners, this could be done at the Tees Valley Living (TVL) Board. PR (HCA) indicated that she would be happy to attend a meeting of the TVL Board.
- PR (HCA) noted that a lot of resources were committed and any headroom would need to be used strategically. Further work needed to be carried out with DoR's and ONE on the strategic commitment.
- In terms of funding it was considered that 3/4 funds could be looked at and then brokered in different ways.
- It was important to complete work for the shorter term quickly and look to complete work for the longer term by summer 2010.

It was noted that a joint report from HCA and TVU on the single conversation would be brought back to the Executive

Board.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

9. ONE NORTHEAST SINGLE PROGRAMME

The Board was presented with a schedule and letter setting out the single programme resources from ONE for the period 2009-11.

The Board raised concerns in relation to some of the projects that appeared as “not accepted”. It was considered that the projects listed as “not accepted” should instead be reviewed and possibly considered as reserve projects. Concerns were also raised over communication and consultation in the process. The Board could not accept the programme as it stands, however, the representative from ONE, MP, indicated a willingness to meet with relevant officers to urgently discuss the issues.

It was considered that further discussions were required in order to establish a better understanding on the way forward and to identify if those projects “not accepted” could be funded in another way.

The Board wished to have a better understanding of the schemes, programmes and projects supported by ONE across all sectors, and the criteria used for their prioritization.

RESOLVED that further discussion on the single programme take place in order to establish better understanding on the way forward and a further report be presented to the next Executive, also to include reference to ONE’s processes and priorities.

10. TEES VALLEY HIGHER LEVEL SKILLS PROGRAMME

The Executive Board was informed that Teesside University had offered to carry out a study identifying the demand for higher level skills in key sectors in the Tees Valley. It was explained that Stage 1 was essentially a scoping exercise, following the completion of which it was proposed to set up a task and finish officer group of the key partners to oversee the work.

The Board was presented with the outline proposal for the study for approval. It was noted that once the first stage of the project had been completed, a more detailed project plan for stages 2 to 4 would be prepared.

It was noted that, if established, a representative from the 14-19 Group should be included in the officer working group for

the study.

RESOLVED that the Tees Valley Higher Level Skills Study outline proposal be approved.

11. BUDGET 2009 AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOW CARBON ECONOMY IN THE TEES VALLEY

The Executive Board considered a report that advised of the measures in the Chancellor's budget statement of April 2009 that related to the development of the low carbon economy and identified the main implications and opportunities for the Tees Valley.

The report also provided details on the progress with expanding the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership.

The Board received information on progress to date on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), energy generation and distribution, the Climate Change Strategy and also information on various other activities being undertaken by the JSU.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted.
2. The JSU continues to promote CCS in the Tees Valley through the Carbon Abatement Working Party and link with Genecon who are working with Parsons Brinckerhoff to deliver the N & S Tees Study, developing the two studies.
3. The JSU continues working with ANEC and ONE to promote the Tees Valley as the preferred location for a CCS demonstration project.
4. The JSU develops a consultant's brief and procures a contract for an options appraisal for district heating using industrial heat sources.
5. The JSU continues responding to DECC and developing the M7 carbon metric, reporting through the Planning & Economic Development Board.
6. The Executive receive reports from the Climate Change Partnership either directly or through the Planning & Economic Development Board.

12. SUBMISSION TO REGULATORY FRAMEWORK – HEATHROW / DTVA

The Board was informed that the JSU was currently preparing

a submission to the Department of Transport in response to the consultation paper, "Reforming the Framework of the Economic Regulation of UK Airports". It was explained that the regulatory framework document proposed not to take any action to regulate for regional connectivity.

JL, Director of TVJSU gave details of a seminar he had attended on the proposed regulations.

It was considered that it was unlikely that civil servants would alter the regulatory framework without political pressure. MP's had already met with TVJSU and Northern Way was preparing a case. CBI had also offered to help through their membership of the Future Heathrow Group.

The Board considered that it was important to keep the issue alive in the press and to establish greater public/stakeholder awareness and to engage more with employers and the private sector. HH (GONE) agreed to raise the issue with the Regional Select Committee.

RESOLVED that the information be noted,

13. TVU PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Board was presented with the performance report for Quarter 4/Year End 2008/09. Details on performance were given for the TVU Business Plan Performance Indicators, TVU Single Programme, TVU Housing and TVU Transport.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The performance on the year end in relation to the TVU high level outcomes and MAA targets be noted;
2. The position at the year end of the Single Programme 2008/09 be noted;
3. The position at the year end of TVL be noted;
4. The position on transport be noted.

14. TVU EVENTS CALENDAR

The Board was presented with the Tees Valley Unlimited events calendar which detailed the proposed events and newsletter publication deadlines scheduled in the next 12 months.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

15. UPDATE FROM SUB BOARDS

The Executive Board was provided with a report that detailed

an update from each of the TVU Sub Boards.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Board considered the Terms of Reference for the Tees Valley Unlimited Programme Group.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

- 26 August 2009
- 25 November 2009
- 3 March 2010
- 26 May 2010