

EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Meeting held in the Ward Room, Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre,
Stockton**

at 2.00pm on Wednesday 22 August 2007

ATTENDEES

Ada Burns (AB)	Darlington Borough Council (DBC)	Chair
Paul Walker (PW)	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)	
Jan Richmond (JR)	Middlesbrough Council (MC)	
Ian Wardle (IW)	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC)	
Mike Robinson (MR)	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC)	
Yvonne Clark (YC)	Government Office North East (GONE)	
Pat Ritchie (PR)	One NorthEast (ONE)	
Chris Livingstone (CL)	Jobcentre Plus (JCP)	
Chris Roberts (CR)	Learning & Skills Council (LSC)	
Joanne Fryett (JF)	North East Chamber of Commerce (NECC)	
John Lowther (JL)	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (JSU)	

APOLOGIES

Colin Moore	RCBC
George Garlick	SBC
Jonathan Blackie	GONE
Steve Davidson	JCP
Sarah Green	Confederation of British Industry North East (CBI)
James Ramsbotham	NECC

Action

1 CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1.1 **AB** welcomed attendees to the meeting, particularly the substitutes and those attending for the first time.

2 APOLOGIES

- 2.1 As noted previously.

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 3.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record.
- 3.2 With regard to minute 3.4, **JL** confirmed that this had been discussed at the Leadership Board meeting on 13 June, but not actually recorded in the draft minutes circulated. This would be rectified.
- 3.3 With regard to minute 6.2, the Leadership Board is to consider a draft communications strategy at its next meeting on 12 September.
- 3.4 **JR** suggested the need to foster greater debate in the Board and sub-Board meetings now that the initial familiarisation phase was completed. **JL** confirmed that this was the intention with all future meetings.

4 REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATION ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TEES VALLEY REGENERATION

- 4.1 The Board discussed a request from the Chief Executive of Tees Valley Regeneration (TVR) for representation at future meetings.
- 4.2 **AB** re-iterated the rationale for the governance arrangements – that the Executive and the Leadership Board should be focused on setting strategy, with the sub-Boards being responsible for delivery, and hence this should be where delivery agencies are included.
- 4.3 **JR** endorsed this view and stated that it is important to avoid the TVU Executive structure becoming too unwieldy.
- 4.4 **PW** also endorsed this view and stated that TVR is clearly a delivery vehicle and is well represented on the various sub-Boards.

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- 4.5 **IW** expressed the view that engagement with TVR should be at the sub-Board level, with engagement with the Executive structure through the normal channels.
- 4.6 **PR** confirmed that an Urban Regeneration Company's key role was in delivery, and that TVR should continue to engage with TVU at this level.
- 4.7 **JF** confirmed that the private sector view TVR as the delivery arm.
- 4.8 Resolved that the request be turned down and a letter of explanation prepared in response to TVR. **JL**

5 SUB-NATIONAL REVIEW

- 5.1 **AB** started the discussion by suggesting that the Executive Board should be encouraged by the SNR and its relation to TVU.
- 5.2 **PR** agreed that the direction of travel of the SNR is consistent with the aims and objectives of TVU. **PR** further stated that ONE particularly welcomes the proposals for a new Integrated Regional Strategy with economic priorities being at its heart, and that proposals for an extended RFA were also welcomed. **PR** indicated that further discussions would be required in the near future in terms of scrutiny and the relationship with the new Regional Minister.
- 5.3 **PR** also indicated that ANEC had been charged with nominating Chief Executives to sit on a regional body to discuss the implications of the SNR, alongside GONE (as Chair), LSC and the North East Assembly. **JR** stated that representation from both City Regions would be preferable on this group.
- 5.4 **CR** pointed out that the LSC is preparing proposals for pre- and post-19 skills subject to further information on when such funding would be available.

6 PROGRESS ON TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED

- 6.1 **JL** introduced the report.
- 6.2 **JR** asked for feedback on the recent visit from the Regional Minister. **AB** and **PW** both expressed the view that the visit had gone well and that the Minister showed a good deal of interest in helping to take TVU forward.

Action

- 6.3 **PW** proposed a vote of thanks to the JSU for the work done in preparing for the Minister's visit and in recognition of the work done to date.
- 6.4 **PR** stated that the ONE session with the Transport Minister recently may have been more positive than the meeting on the Draft Local Transport Bill attended by the JSU, but emphasised that there was a clear need to identify key regional transport priorities.
- 6.5 JL outlined that further work is being undertaken to refine the funding profile and Investment Plan with each of the Local Authorities, particularly the need to review assumed project timescales.
- 6.6 The Chair of the Leadership Board is developing proposals for the Private Sector Business Group, and **AB** endorsed suggestions for a 'topic based' approach to membership and format.
- 6.7 Resolved that the report be noted by the Executive and presented to the Leadership Board.

7 TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED – WORK PROGRAMME

- 7.1 **JL** offered a report for decision, based on the feedback from the first series of sub-Board meetings in July.
- 7.2 **JL** confirmed that the schedule at the back of the report would be updated and presented for information at each subsequent meeting. **JL**
- 7.3 Resolved that the report be endorsed by the Executive and presented to the Leadership Board.

8 CAA CHARGING POLICY AT HEATHROW

- 8.1 **JL** offered a report for decision.
- 8.2 **PW** asked whether there was a regional airports strategy that would assist in the argument. **YC** suggested that service levels have been set for each route, and that she would investigate these to use within the formal response to the Commission.
- 8.3 **PR** expressed the wish that ONE was keen to be part of any future lobbying strategy.

Action

- 8.4 Resolved that JL contact GONE and ONE to pursue options for further representation at Government level, particularly on the economic case.

9 SCOPING A CITY REGION APPROACH TO WORKLESSNESS

- 9.1 **JL** offered a draft report for discussion and presented the key findings.
- 9.2 **CL** stated that JCP broadly agrees with the key findings, but that page 1 needs to reflect the Regional Employability Framework.
- 9.3 **CR** stated that there is a need to keep a focus on actions and work on 14-19 year olds is not necessarily going to meet the needs of employers in the City Region.
- 9.4 **PR** suggests that the report needs to identify key actions and possible incentivisation.
- 9.5 **YC** commented that the report has few surprises, but some real challenges.
- 9.6 **CR** commented that there is a need to be aware of ongoing discussions around Employment and Skills boards, their scope and statutory nature, if future funding for adult training and skills is to be routed through such boards.
- 9.7 Resolved that there is support for the proposed workshop to move the recommendations of the study forward into actions.

10 LIST OF MEETINGS

- 10.1 **JL** presented a list of meetings attended by Senior Management at the JSU over the preceding period. **JL** stated that such a report was normal practice for the Joint Strategy Committee and is part of the accountability of the JSU.
- 10.2 Resolved that the report be noted.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 None noted.

Action

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

- 12.1
- Wednesday 28 November 2007
 - Wednesday 27 February 2008

All meetings to commence at 2pm, venues to be confirmed.
