

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Meeting held at Wynyard Rooms, Wynyard at 2.00pm on Wednesday 25  
February 2008**

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**ATTENDEES**

Ada Burns (AB)	Darlington Borough Council	(DBC) – Chair
Neil Schneider (NS)	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	(SBC)
Paul Walker (PW)	Hartlepool Borough Council	(HBC)
Kevin Parkes (KP) -	Middlesbrough Borough Council	(MBC)
Amanda Skelton (AS)	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	(RCBC)
Chris Livingstone (CL)	Jobcentre Plus	(JCP)
Paul Chapman (PC)	Jobcentre Plus	(JCP)
Chris Roberts (CR)	Learning and Skills Council	(LSC)
Nick Muse (NM)	One NorthEast	(ONE)
Steve Gawthorpe (SG)	English Partnership	(EP)
Joanne Fryett (JF)	NECC	
Hilton Heslop (HH)	GONE	
Liz Mayers (LM)	CBI	
John Lowther (JL)	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	(JSU)
Linda Edworthy (LE)	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	(JSU)
Johnathan Spruce	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	(JSU)

**APOLOGIES**

Jonathan Blackie	GONE	
Jan Richmond (JR)	Middlesbrough Borough Council	(MBC)

**OBSERVER**

Michael Henderson	Stockton Borough Council on behalf of JSU
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**1. CHAIR'S WELCOME**

The Chairman (AB) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

**2. NOTES OF THE MEETING ON 26 NOVEMBER 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2008.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

Noted that a progress report on the Communications Strategy would be submitted to the Executive's next meeting.

With regard to the TVU Conference, held at Wynyard Hall, on 16<sup>th</sup> February, it was explained that attendance had been very good and feedback had been extremely positive. The event had received praise from John Healey Minister for Communities and Local Government.

**4. RFA2 FUNDING ALLOCATION**

It was explained that final draft advice had been discussed at ANEC Leaders' Board on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

The Executive noted that there was still an issue with the reprofiling of the four A19 schemes which had not happened in advance of the RFA Submission, as had been planned.

A meeting to undertake the reprofiling would take place in the second week in March, following that a revised RFA schedule would be prepared and circulated to Leaders for endorsement.

**HH** indicated that he would look into this matter and assist if necessary.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**5. CITY REGION FORERUNNER PROPOSAL**

It was explained that work had been underway to develop proposals for submission to Government. A first draft document, together with supporting Annexes, was provided. It was intended that a full draft would be completed by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February with a view to making the submission on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

The Board was asked to provide comments at this meeting or by Monday 2 March.

Initially Board Members were asked to focus on certain sections. A lengthy discussion took place on elements of the

submission and comments included :-

#### T1 – Tees Valley City Region

- need to refer to recession and measures we are undertaking to address it.
- deprivation factors were necessarily indicated but it was also important to focus on opportunities.

#### T2 – Functions

- Noted that the language used was deliberately diplomatic.
- Key partners were supportive of joint investment planning and a single capital programme, but they had concerns surrounding the legislation in which they operated and their authority to delegate funds into a single capital programme.
- Agreed that TVU was looking to push funding boundaries and get government to commit to change governance and legislation if necessary. TVU must be explicit in what it wants in this regard and indicate that the region could perform better if the governance, funding etc environment allowed it
- With regard to efficiency savings and specifically fixed price contracts it was queried whether it was necessary to provide as much detail as appeared (para 2.23 refers)
- Agreed that identified savings should be available for TVU to reinvest and this matter should be discussed with government.

#### E – Housing Market Recovery Programme

- Need for lots of examples of successful joint working and evidence to back it up.
- The Board noted the split between dealing with the current credit crunch and long term planning. For example support for local construction firms in the short term may impact on long term planning. TVU needed to be sensitive to this as this was fundamental to the achievement of TVU's goals.
- Suggested that para 2.26 was too specific and should

be generalised.

- **SG** to assist on section dealing with flexibilities required by HCA.

#### F – City Region Employment and Skills Board

- Agreed that the TVU's ambition was to initially move to a point where it could influence commissioning and then to a point where it could commission itself.
- Noted that JobCentre Plus, would be identifying a provider to deal with its mainstream services and that provider would need to be involved in any partnership arrangements.
- Need to join up all the elements of the skills issue and explain what we want to do, how we will do it and, if possible, tell the story and bring the vision to life.
- Indicated that a paragraph detailing how flexibilities would assist the Tees Valley, in the short term, to respond to the Credit Crunch

R1 – Tees Valley Economic Significance and potential contribution to regional mechanism and national growth

R2 – Tees Valley's vision and capacity to deliver it.

- Noted that these sections were currently in outline only and would be expanded. Case studies would be included.

R3 – Collective decision making / an effective mechanism

- TVU operated on a consensus basis, however, a process for dispute resolution that was acceptable to all partners would need to be developed.

Agreed that the submission as a whole needed to identify what we have, what we will move to and what we will have at the end.

Key partners present indicated their willingness to support the submission. How this support was specifically articulated in the submission (e.g letters of support from individual partners, a general letter indicating support, identifying it as a partners' submission etc) would be considered.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and the submission

be finalised taking account of the comments made.

## **6. TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED BUSINESS PLAN 2009 - 2012**

Board Members considered an initial draft of Tees Valley Unlimited's Business Plan 2009 – 2012.

It was noted that the Plan drew together and updated the Tees Valley City Region Business Case, the City Region Investment Plan and Multi Area Agreement and put a performance management framework around it.

It was explained that the draft was still missing some detail and partners would be contacted on this. Also targets were omitted as they were being reviewed.

Higher Earnings (TVUO3) - suggested that progression rates into Higher Earnings be clearly demonstrated.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

## **7. TEES VALLEY DRAFT INVESTMENT PLAN 2009/10 TO 2010/11**

The Board considered a report that brought together projects that would make up an investment programme for the Tees Valley for the next two years. The draft programme covered the four main funding streams in the MAA and the Board noted what resources were expected to be available:-

Funding Stream	2009/2010	2010/2011
ONE Single Programme –	£ 14 – 18 million	£10 – 13 million
Housing Market Renewal	£15.6 million	£14.9 million
Housing Growth Initiative	£2.4 million	£3.78 million
RFA Transport	£109 million from 2009/10 to 2013/14	

The Board was provided with details of some of the proposed projects, across the Tees Valley which would be funded from the above streams. Those schemes that directly supported the economy were highlighted :-

- North Tees/South Tees Development Framework
- Wilton Innovation Connector – Digital City Innovation Connector.
- Gap Funding Projects

It was explained that ONE and the Homes and Communities Agency were to meet to resolve critical issues surrounding the funding responsibility for four key projects – Victoria Harbour, Green Blue Heart, Greater Eston and Northern Gateway.

It was suggested that the Plan should reflect all public sector investment. Information could be provided from other partners such as Job Centre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council. It would be helpful to demonstrate the connectivity between all investment.

Agreed that this issue should not go to the Leadership Board until a comprehensive investment plan had been produced.

The Board was asked to consider how funding streams could be identified in the skills and employability areas, to complement the investment plan.

To assist with this it was agreed that a sub group be set up, involving the LSC, Job Centre Plus and Local Authorities.

RESOLVED that:-

1. progress to date to bring together the key programmes in the investment plan for the next 2 years be noted.
2. the plan be expanded to include other public sector investment.
3. a sub group be created, involving LSC, Job Centre Plus and Local Authorities, to look at issues surrounding the the alignment of budgets to meet skills needs.

## **8. TVU PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 3 2008/09**

The Board considered the third quarter performance update on the TVU Business Plan strategic indicators and targets and the performance of funding programmes directly associated with the MAA.

It was clear that the recession was having some impact on the local economy, however indications were that the Tees Valley was less badly affected than other areas, mainly due to its industrial structure.

It was noted that there was still 30% spend to be achieved on the Single Programme in the final quarter.

The Board was informed that TVL was on course to deliver targets for grant expenditure and outputs by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the performance on the 3rd quarter in relation to the TVU high level outcomes and MAA targets.
2. the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter position of the Single Programme 2008/09 be noted.
3. the fact that TVL was on course to deliver targets for grant expenditure and outputs by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 be noted.
4. the position on transport as detailed in the report be noted.

**9. TEES VALLEY EMPLOYABILITY FRAMEWORK – SINGLE PROGRAMME FUNDING APPLICATION**

The Board considered a progress report on the work being undertaken to improve the coordination of employability and worklessness activity using the Regional Employability Framework designed by One North East as a model.

It was explained that the work had been developed by a working group comprising the Heads of Economic Development/Regeneration of the five Tees Valley authorities, One North East, Learning and Skills Council, Job Centre Plus and Business and Enterprise North East. One North East approved a project Initiative and Planning Application for funding of £2.4 million over 3 years in November. The full business case had been submitted and a decision by ONE was expected on 16 March.

The Board was provided with a summary report and four short papers, which outlined what each workstream would achieve.

The Board was very happy with the work that had been undertaken and supported the business case. It was agreed that it would fill a number of gaps and improve coordination.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**  
**DURHAM TEES VALLEY AIRPORT**

The Board discussed the closure of the Heathrow service from DTVA.

It was noted that the JSU had made a submission to the

Parliamentary Transport Select Committee's Future of Aviation Inquiry.

The point had been made that the withdrawal of the service was associated with taxes and charging structures rather than a lack of demand. The withdrawal of the service would have a significant detrimental affect on the Tees Valley economy.

It was agreed that the situation needed to be continually highlighted with politicians, to keep it on the political agenda, as there was nothing TVU could do to directly influence the situation. Everyone could assist in this and engage with and lobby MPs etc.

It was suggested that a submission be made to the Regional Minister, Nick Brown.

RESOLVED that the situation be noted and efforts continue to keep this issue highlighted on the political agenda.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **ECONOMIC CLIMATE**

The Board noted that at a recent meeting Treasury officials had raised the issue of the Credit Crunch and its effect on local employment and the local economy generally. They had asked that local authorities consider what they needed in order to support the local economy. There had been an indication that assistance from government may be forthcoming.

Authorities had been asked to prepare a paper, for submission to government, setting out what local authorities were doing to keep their local economy afloat and what they could do if funding was in place.

The Board broadly discussed what should be included in the paper and partners agreed to assist in the compilation of the paper.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and the paper described be prepared.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

20 May 2009