

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Meeting held at Wilton Centre, Redcar at 2.00pm on Wednesday 26  
November 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)
Jan Richmond (JR)	Middlesbrough Borough Council	(MBC)
Amanda Skelton (AS)	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	(RCBC)
Chris Livingstone (CL)	Jobcentre Plus	(JCP)
Chris Roberts (CR)	Learning and Skills Council	(LSC)
Nick Muse (NM)	One NorthEast	(ONE)
Steve Gawthorpe (SG)	English Partnership	(EP)
John Lowther (JL)	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	(JSU)
Linda Edworthy (LE)	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	(JSU)

**APOLOGIES**

Jonathan Blackie	GONE
Hilton Heslop	GONE
Joanne Fryett	NECC

**OBSERVER**

Sarah Johnson	SBC
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**1. CHAIR'S WELCOME**

The Chairman (AB) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

**2. NOTES OF THE MEETING ON 27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008 were agreed as a true record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

The Board was provided with an update on the Multi Area Agreement (MAA). A document detailing the issues to be progressed to achieve implementation of the MAA was circulated to Members of the Board.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**4. RFA2 FUNDING ALLOCATION**

The Director of the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit gave a presentation on the main elements of the RFA2 submission from the Tees Valley.

The Executive discussed the presentation and commented that consideration needed to be given on how they were going to represent EP funding. It was also considered that the submission needed to be backed up with a narrative in order to communicate the Tees Valley picture.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**5. CREDIT CRUNCH**

Consideration was given to a report relating to the Credit Crunch. The Executive was reminded that the Credit Crunch Task Force would be producing an interim report in the next few weeks but the Director of TVJSU had produced a summary of the main analysis and conclusions for the board in the meantime. Further information on unemployment and the impact of the credit crunch on major inward investment projects was also presented.

The Board was provided with details of the following outline proposals relating to restoring confidence in house building and preparing for housing Market improvement:

- A lead role for Registered Social Landlords
- Preparing for housing market improvement
- Assisting household into ownership

- Mortgage rescue scheme

The Executive discussed the report and made the following comments:

- Officers should look into how the private sector could be involved in the proposals for the housing market.
- It was considered that the Credit Crunch Task Force should broaden their approach to look at how the downturn was affecting various plans and the MAA.
- The Board noted that the Heads of Regeneration Group had been charged with being the economic downturn sub group.
- The Board discussed various issues relating to investment in training. It was noted that better mechanisms for small and medium sized businesses to access available money for training needed to be introduced.
- It was noted that there were now virtual networks in Local Authorities offering assistance, with representatives from Local Authorities' economic and regeneration departments, Job Centre Plus and the Learning & Skills Council.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

## **6. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

The Executive considered a draft of an action plan that looked at communications activity for 15 months from January 2009 – March 2010, prepared by Gardiner Richardson. It covered the first phase of TVU communications, to provide a platform on which to build into future years.

It was informed that the focus of the action plan was on corporate communications. It was proposed that a separate more detailed piece of work on marketing be produced to establish a business case for the development of a Tees Valley brand.

The Board was given details of the three levels of activity included in the action plan – must have activity, good to have activity and nice to have activity.

Members of the Board considered the report and agreed that finding the resources for the activities was critical. It was noted that further work needed to be done on establishing what image would be communicated for the region.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

## **7. TEES VALLEY EMPLOYABILITY FRAMEWORK**

The Board considered a report that summarised the key findings and proposed way forward identified within a draft report by Shared Intelligence - the 'Tees Valley Employability Delivery Plan'. Members of the Board were provided with a copy of the Delivery Plan, which would form the basis for the Tees Valley Employability Framework.

The report provided the Board with an overview of the following:-

- Key Challenges
- Strategic Objectives
- Proposed Work Streams
- Links to the Regional Employability Framework (REF)
- Proposed way forward

The full version of the Shared Intelligence document had been made available to Members of the Board.

The Board considered the report and commented that finding the resources for some of the activities was critical.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The general findings of the Shared Intelligence Report and the main points put forward as objectives be endorsed.
2. Further development of the Employability Framework for Tees Valley be taken forward through five activity work-streams led by three working groups.
3. The working groups should report back to the Employability Sub-Group of Tees Valley ESB.

## **8. TVU PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 2 2008/09**

The Board considered the second performance report for TVU which pulled together the performance against the TVU Business Plan strategic indicators and targets (incorporating the MAA indicators and targets), and performance on the key programmes that would impact on the strategic indicators.

It was explained that there was little update information available against the performance indicators. However, the information available together with supplementary data suggested a slow down in the local economy. It was noted that figures showed that the housing market was declining and there were, as yet, no signs that the decline was halting.

With regard to progress on Single Programme funding it was

noted that concerns continued about the level of Single Programme spend and therefore outputs achieved with 50% of spend profiled in Quarter 4.

Housing funding spend and outputs were on track to achieve the year end targets. However, the Executive was asked to endorse the recommendation made by the TVU Programme Group that 10% of funding be brought forward from next year.

The Executive was also asked to agree to the submission of a PIP to ONE for the regional Economic Inclusion activities covering Infrastructure, Building Futures, Employer Gateway(s), Post Employment Support and Communications.

The Board considered the report and commented that in terms of high level targets the credit crunch was becoming important. It was acknowledged that TVJSU needed to have discussions with CLG with regards to the MAA targets.

It was expected that a revised Business Plan for 2009/10 would be produced and brought to the next meeting of the Executive Board.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The performance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter in relation to the TVU high level outcomes and MAA targets.
2. The submission of a PIP to ONE for the regional Economic Inclusion activities be agreed.
3. The position on the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the Single Programme 2008/9 be noted and each partner in conjunction with JSU be requested to assess the risk attached to the spend in quarter 4.
4. The request to be made to CLG to bring forward 10% funding from next year be endorsed.

## **9. TVU CONFERENCE**

The Board was given an update on the TVU Conference. The Conference would be held at Wynyard Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Wynyard Hall would be sponsoring the event, together with the Homes and Communities Agency Academy and the Gazette. The Board was informed that John Healey had confirmed as a speaker at the conference. Official invites to the conference would be sent out the following week.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board considered the Conflict of Interest Procedures document.

The following documents were circulated to Members of the Board for consideration and discussion:

- Delegation of decision-making by RDAs (Chapter 2 Delivering the SNR – the Governments approach following consultation, pages 21-22)
- Devolving responsibilities to city-regions (Supporting Business – 2008 Pre Budget Report, page 82)
- A report on what the pre-budget report means for North East England

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 25 February 2008