

EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Meeting held at the Mount Stewart Room, Wynyard Rooms at 2.00pm on
Wednesday 21 May 2008**

ATTENDEES

George Garlick (GG) –	Stockton on Tees Borough Council	(SBC) – Chair
Richard Alty (RA) -	Darlington Borough Council (DBC)	
Peter Scott (PS)-	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)	
Kevin Parkes (KP) -	Middlesbrough Borough Council (MBC)	
Steve Davidson (SD) –	Jobcentre Plus (JCP)	
Yvonne Clark (YC) –	Government Office North East (GONE)	
Nick Muse (NM) -	One North East (ONE)	
Nick James (NJ) -	Learning and Skills Council (LSC)	
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

Ada Burns	DBC
Paul Walker	HBC
Jan Richmond	MBC
Amanda Skelton	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC)
Jonathan Blackie	GONE
Pat Richie	ONE
Chris Roberts	Learning and Skills Council (LSC)
James Ramsbottom	North East Chamber of Commerce (NECC)

OBSERVER

Michael Henderson	SBC
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1 CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chairman (GG) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2 NOTES OF THE MEETING ON 27th FEBRUARY 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2008 were agreed as a true record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

None

4 MULTI AREA AGREEMENT

The Executive considered a report that set out the outcome of the first negotiation workshop with Government on the Multi Area Agreement (MAA) and identified the next stages in the process.

It was explained that discussions with Government (Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), the Treasury and the Department of Transport) had been extremely positive and feedback suggested that the Government departments involved considered the draft MAA to be a well evidenced, well argued document that had clear principles and objectives.

It was agreed that the Tees Valley would

- Include in the MAA a further articulation of the story on the overall housing delivery, including affordable housing
- Produce a technical note on how the MAA would contribute to the sustainability/climate change agenda.
- Develop further the concept of a profit sharing agreement where efficiency savings provide financial benefits for the programme
- Explore with Bob Kerslake, Head of the Homes and Communities Agency, how the Agencies funding streams could be incorporated into the MAA. A note detailing a presentation the Director of the Joint Strategy Unit had attended where Sir Bob set out his vision for the Agency was provided.

The Executive noted that work in the above areas was underway and a draft of a technical note on the contribution of the MAA to sustainability was circulated. Arrangements to meet with Sir Bob, at the Institute of Housing Conference, had been made for 18th June 2008.

It was anticipated that Government would agree the final MAA by the end of June.

The Executive noted the three main issues for the Tees Valley to pursue (TV):-

- The development of targets.
- The development of a delivery plan for £20m/year capital with a target of agreeing a single programme delivery plan by the end of September.
- The need to get all TV Councils' Cabinets to agree the MAA by 6th June 2008.

With regard to targets the Board noted that discussions had been undertaken with the Government Office and Assistant Chief Executives. Details of the current Indicators and Targets were circulated and discussed.

The Board considered the targets and provided feedback to officers.

Some concern was raised at the deadline of September for agreeing the single programme delivery plan. It was suggested that this deadline might be a little tight.

Authority Representatives were asked to ensure that the current version of the MAA was signed of by their Cabinet by 6th June 2008.

RESOLVED that the course of action referred to above and detailed in section 3 of the report considered by the Executive, be approved.

5 BUSINESS PLAN

The Board considered an initial draft of the Tees Valley Unlimited Business Plan 2008 – 2011.

The Business Plan, once agreed by the Executive would be presented to the Leadership Board.

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

The Executive Board considered the Business Plan and provided comments.

Particular discussion took place relating to the Role of Tees Valley Unlimited, High Level Outcomes (HLO 1 – 6), Tees Valley Unlimited Outcomes (TVUO 1 – 6) and how those outcomes would be measured.

Members of the Executive made a number of Comments/suggestions including: -

- strengthen the reference to key partners and working collaboratively.
- include reference to enhancing the reputation of the Tees Valley. Noted that this would be a key element of the Communications Strategy
- highlight the role of Tees Valley Unlimited in ensuring and monitoring delivery of ambitions.
- Should be some reference to Best Practice
- the importance of establishing the necessary infrastructure for the commercial sector to operate and thrive was highlighted.
- encourage less reliance on the public sector
- more clarity needed with regard to HLO 3 and 4
- redraft of success measure of HLO 5.
- consider penetration rates as a measure of success and draw comparisons with other areas of the country

The Business plan included the TVU Forward Plans that set out key activities over the next 12 – 36 months. The Executive agreed that the plans were in a good format. Executive Members were requested to provide any additional comments on the plans by 28th May 2008.

RESOLVED that the comments of the Executive be noted and the Business Plan be approved.

7. TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The Executive was presented with an initial draft of the Tees Valley Unlimited Communications Strategy.

It was explained that the Strategy had been prepared by the Chair of the Leadership Board and another Board Member, Alastair MacColl.

The Strategy reflected the Business Plan and set out Tees Valley Unlimited's approach to communications in relation to all of its activities. It identified the issues to be addressed, the key audiences, key messages and potential methods of communication.

It was explained that production of an Action Plan to deliver the Strategy would be subject to a tendering exercise. It was noted that the resource and other implications of this were being explored.

During consideration it was suggested that housing should be explicitly referred to as a strategic objective at 2.2 of the strategy.

RESOLVED that the Strategy and the 'next steps', as detailed in paras 9.1 to 9.4, be approved.

8. SUB NATIONAL REVIEW

The Executive was provided with a copy of the Tees Valley Authorities' response to a consultation paper relating to the review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration.

The Executive noted the main issues for the Tees Valley: -

- as the improvement of skills in the workforce was a substantial part of the development of regional city economy it was considered that adult learning should be included in the regional funding allocations.
- No procedural/governance arrangements for dealing with the issue of moving resources between funding streams had been proposed.

The Executive agreed that statutory powers were not needed to develop sub regional collaboration. The achievements under existing arrangements within the Tees Valley demonstrated this.

Resolved that the response be noted.

9. PORT DEVELOPMENTS AND RAIL GAUGE ENHANCEMENT

The Executive considered a report on how rail gauge enhancements could be taken forward to support the Port developments in the Tees Valley.

It was noted that the Northern Way, working with Network Rail proposed to develop a package to fund work on gauge enhancement to the East Coast Main Line from Doncaster to Edinburgh (£15 million) and from Doncaster to Birmingham to connect with the West Coast Main Line (£40 million).

The Executive noted options for connection from Teesport to the East Coast Main Line.

Teesport to Northallerton – 5 million
Teesport to Darlington - £7 million
Teesport to Tursdale via the Stillington line -£3million

The Executive noted that the Tursdale connection was for the northbound only to Scotland, and Northallerton southbound only to Doncaster and the South. It was considered that Darlington (£7 million) could provide both a North and a South link and form the first stage of the project providing gauge enhancement connection to the East Coast Main Line. Tursdale and Northallerton would follow in later years.

It was agreed that it would be useful for ONE, PD Ports, Northern Way and the Tees Valley JSU to meet and discuss a funding package for the works relating to connecting Teesport with the East Coast Main Line.

It was noted that ONE would have an important role in moving this project forward.

RESOLVED that the Executive

1. Supports the Northern Way in bringing together a package to gauge enhance the East Coast Main Line from Doncaster to Edinburgh and Doncaster to Birmingham.
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2. authorises discussion to take place between ONE, PD Ports, Northern Way and the Tees Valley JSU on a funding package for gauge enhancement to Teesport from the East Coast Main Line.

10. REGIONAL IMAGE STRATEGY/MARKETING FRAMEWORK REVIEW

The Executive considered a report that provided an update on the review of the Regional Marketing Framework and the Regional Image Strategy.

The Executive was reminded that ONE had commissioned consultants to undertake two pieces of interrelated work:

- the development of the Regional Image Strategy and the development of Passionate People Passionate Places campaign
- to review and update the current Marketing Framework which would guide the marketing activities of ONE and the 4 Area Tourism Partnerships, which form Tourism Network North East.

Both studies would be completed by the end of May and proposals would have implications for the Tees Valley.

RESOLVED that the report and current position be noted and Visit Tees Valley be charged with pursuing detailed discussions with ONE regarding the future implications for Tees Valley.

11. ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF THE DURHAM TEES VALLEY TO HEATHROW

The Executive considered the Summary of a report it had commissioned to carry out an economic assessment of the Durham Tees Valley to Heathrow service. The report would be forwarded to the Department of Transport.

The report highlighted the importance of the service to the Tees Valley in terms of providing links to business in Europe and beyond.

Withdrawal of the service would have a negative impact on users and the airport.

It was explained that BMI had recently held discussions with Durham Tees Valley Airport about future proposals for the route. It was noted that they had requested assistance for a marketing campaign to promote it.

TVU had identified potential opportunities, to help, in certain of its budgets.

The Executive received additional information on this matter from the Director of the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Joint Strategy Unit be charged with pursuing funding to support the marketing campaign.

12 2007/2008 SINGLE PROGRAMME OUTTURN REPORT

The Executive considered a report that provided details of the performance of the 2007/2008 Tees Valley Single Programme and sought endorsement for the Programming Group's approval of slippage from 2007/2008 into 2008/09.

The Executive was provided with details of Revenue and Capital spend and slippage that occurred during the year.

The report also provided details of achievements and explanations of variances.

The Executive noted that there were issues over the Programming Group's format and its ability to take certain decisions. This would be the subject of a future paper.

Resolved that:

Capital Spend

- the requests for slippage of funding from 2007/2008 into 2008/2009 for projects listed as per item 2.2.1 of the report be endorsed.
- the spend achieved for 2007/2008 capital programme be noted.

Revenue Spend

- the request for slippage of funding from 2007/08 into 2008/09 for the project listed at 3.2.1 of the report be endorsed.

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- the spend achieved for the 2007/08 revenue programme be noted.

Outputs

- the achievements and explanations of achievements be noted.

13. HOUSING GROWTH POINT

The Executive was provided with an update on the situation relating to the Tees Valley submission to be designated a Housing Growth Point. It was noted that an announcement was imminent.

It was suggested that when this matter was discussed at meetings of the Leadership Board, SG should be invited to attend.

RESOLVED that the update be noted and SG be invited to appropriate meetings of the Leadership Board.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday 27 August 2008
Wednesday 26 November 2008
Wednesday 25 February 2009
