
LEADERSHIP BOARD

**Meeting held at the Ebbsworth Building, Queen's Campus, Stockton
at 2.00pm on Wednesday 12 December 2007**

ATTENDEES

Hugh Lang (HL) Councillor Ken Lupton	Durham Tees Valley Airport (DTVA) Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC)	Chair Vice Chair
Councillor John Williams Councillor Bob Kerr Councillor George Dunning Paul Booth (PB) Professor Graham Henderson (GH) Alison Thain (AT)	Darlington Borough Council (DBC) Middlesbrough Council (MC) Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC) President, SABIC UK Petrochemicals University of Teesside (UoT)	
Ada Burns (AB)	One NorthEast (ONE) and Tees Valley Housing Chief Executive, DBC	
Peter Ellis (PE) John Lowther (JL)	Renew Tees Valley (RTV) Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (JSU)	

APOLOGIES

Stuart Drummond (SD) Ray Mallon (RM) Alastair MacColl (AM)	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) MC Chief Executive, Business Link North East
Martyn Pellew (MP)	PD Ports and North East Chamber of Commerce (NECC)

OBSERVERS

Jonathan Spruce

Tees Valley JSU

Action

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 1.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2 MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 Item 1.4 – **HL** noted that the Leadership Board Away Day had been held in November, and **AT** commented on how useful the day had been in understanding the City Region Business Case and the Board's role in helping to deliver it.
- 2.2 Item 1.5 – **JL** suggested that the reports were now shorter, and **HL** replied that he believed that the layout and format of the reports now reflects the discussion at the last meeting. **HL** also highlighted the increasing national recognition of the new governance arrangements.

3 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE AND THE SUB-BOARDS

- 3.1 **JL** provided a brief summary of progress from the recent meeting of the Executive and each of the sub-Boards.
- 3.2 In particular, **JL** highlighted the discussions at the Executive regarding the Multi-Area Agreement (MAA).
- 3.3 **HL** raised the apparent difference between the initial £20 million per annum allocation to the City Region's place projects from ONE and the current £14 million allocation within the draft Corporate Plan. **JL** responded that there is a need for a debate with ONE on exactly what the City Region's priorities with regard to place should be.
- 3.4 **AT** added that the Corporate Plan is in draft form, and subject to ongoing negotiation with ONE. **AT** also noted that the suggested delegation levels from ONE would depend on ONE itself reaching an agreement on greater delegation levels with its parent department, BERR.
- 3.5 **Councillor Williams** cautioned that the City Region should not be slowed down in its progress by protracted negotiations with central Government.
- 3.6 **HL** concluded that many of the matters discussed at the sub-Boards have now flowed through to the papers for today's meeting.
- 3.7 Resolved that the minutes of the Executive and the sub-Boards be noted by the Leadership Board.

Action

4 TEES VALLEY CITY REGION – HIGHER SKILLS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

- 4.1 **GH** tabled some further material for discussion and outlined the main points in the draft report circulated.
- 4.2 **PB** stated that specific skills needs are not necessarily addressed within the City Region at present, and there is a continued need to retain basic skills within the North East.
- 4.3 **GH** stressed the need for “ambassadors” for certain sectors and industries to champion their suitability for a long term career within the City Region.
- 4.4 **Councillor Lupton** highlighted the vital role that schools can play in encouraging future skills, and also pointed out that the draft report did not mention Local Authorities, one of the largest employers within the City Region.
- 4.5 **PB** asked whether the City Region should collectively consider offering financial incentives to encourage high achievers to stay within the Tees Valley. **PB** also pointed out that people with an engineering qualification have a high number of transferable skills.
- 4.6 **GH** suggested that the City Region should be encouraging 16 year olds to undertake higher education training within the industry.
- 4.7 **AB** asked how the City Region makes the case for a specialised skills strategy within an overall move towards a Regional Skills Strategy. **GH** replied that there is an obvious need for a City Region Action Plan, irrespective of the level at which any overall strategy is prepared.
- 4.8 **JL** stated that the City Region needs to ensure representation on any regional bodies developing a long term skills strategy and ensure an implicit recognition of the different characteristics of the Tees Valley economy.
- 4.9 **PB** suggested that the City Region needs to define adequately the exact skills problems at this early stage before confirming the most appropriate level for action.
- 4.10 Resolved that the draft report be amended to reflect the discussions of the Board, and the included as an item at the next Employment and Skills Board meeting for further discussion, to provide a more detailed way forward for agreement by the Leadership Board.

GH/JL

Action

5 SOUTH TEES/NORTH TEES INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 **JL** introduced the report for information.
- 5.2 **HL** asked how the ongoing A66/A19/A174 Area Action Plan study would feed into this work. **JL** replied that the preliminary findings of the trunk road work, and the work being undertaken by Network Rail on gauge enhancements for Teesport, would both be provided to the consultant selected to undertake the work.
- 5.3 Resolved that the recommendation be endorsed.

6 TEES VALLEY ENERGY SECTOR – A STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 **JL** and **PE** offered a paper for discussion, arising from the previous Planning & Economic Strategy sub-Board meeting. **PE** highlighted the need to define the opportunities for the Tees Valley with regard to the energy sector and future Government strategy.
- 6.2 **HL** asked about the threats to the sector. **Councillor Dunning** suggested that local people do not necessarily want jobs in the sector at any price.
- 6.3 **PB** outlined the need for a strong political will to move forward with some of the likely controversial elements of any future strategy.
- 6.4 **AB** suggested that RTV and the JSU be tasked with preparing a clear future strategy for the energy sector, and that this strategy be brought back to a future Board meeting.
- 6.5 Resolved that the report be noted and the above suggestion be endorsed.

7 TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED WORK PROGRAMME – PROGRESS REPORT

- 7.1 **JL** outlined the progress with the work programme for 2007/08.
- 7.2 Resolved that progress with the work programme be noted and that future meetings be given further updates on progress. **JL**

Action

8 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY – PROGRESS REPORT

8.1 **JL** introduced the report for information.

8.2 **Councillor Williams** suggested engaging with The Northern Echo in order for the aims and objectives of the new arrangements to be set out clearly. **Councillor Williams** also questioned the value in producing a brochure on the achievements of the Tees Valley Partnership.

8.3 **AT** suggested that any brochure should be set in the context of Tees Valley Unlimited and looking forward.

8.4 Resolved that the issue of whether a brochure should be produced, and in what context, be referred back to the Executive.

JL

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 None noted.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

10.1 • Wednesday 19 March 2008

Meeting to commence at 2pm, venue to be confirmed.

10.2 A programme of meetings for the 2008/09 session would be prepared and presented at the next meeting.

JL
