

EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Meeting held in the Mandela Room, Middlesbrough Town Hall
at 2.00pm on Friday 1 June 2007**

ATTENDEES

George Garlick (GG)	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC)	Chair
Ada Burns (AB)	Darlington Borough Council (DBC)	Vice Chair
Paul Walker (PW)	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)	
Jan Richmond (JR)	Middlesbrough Council (MC)	
Ian Wardle (IW)	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC)	
Jonathan Blackie (JB)	Government Office North East (GONE)	
Pat Ritchie (PR)	One NorthEast (ONE)	
Chris Livingstone (CL)	Jobcentre Plus (JCP)	
Tom Crompton (TC)	Learning & Skills Council (LSC)	
Liz Smith	Confederation of British Industry North East (CBI)	
Joanne Fryett	North East Chamber of Commerce (NECC)	
John Lowther (JL)	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (JSU)	

APOLOGIES

Colin Moore	RCBC
Steve Davidson	JCP
James Ramsbotham	NECC

Action

1 CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

GG welcomed attendees to the inaugural meeting of the Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) Executive Board.

2 APOLOGIES

As noted previously.

3 THE STORY SO FAR

JL offered a paper for information.

AB offered a vote of thanks to **JL** and the staff at the JSU for the calibre and volume of work already undertaken to set up TVU. This was endorsed by the Executive.

PR stated that from her role on working groups in relation to the Sub-National Review (SNR), it was clear that the Tees Valley was leading the way regionally and nationally with regard to best practice on City Region policy.

PR asked whether Alison Thain is actually a ONE representative on the Leadership Board, as ONE would wish for a formal nomination on the Leadership Board. **GG** is to recommend to the Leadership Board that there is a formal ONE membership, starting with Alison Thain.

GG

PR also highlighted that ONE would wish to be a member of the Employment and Skills Board. **JL** stated that this was an omission, and that the list of membership would be corrected for the revised version of the paper.

JL

Resolved that the report be noted by the Executive and approved for presentation to the Leadership Board.

4 ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

GG referred the Executive to pages 6 and 9 of the paper for the previous item.

GG stated that the Joint Strategy Committee and the Tees Valley Partnership would now be subsumed into the TVU structure. There will also be a need to review the structure of the JSU to support TVU, and papers relating to this will be brought to future meetings.

Action

GG felt that the Executive acts as the “bonding agent” for the Leadership Board and the five sub-Boards, with the principal task of ensuring coherent presentation of monitoring and reporting information on progress.

JR noted that the fact that the TVU arrangements were in “shadow” form has allowed the Tees Valley to move forwards quickly.

PR asked that the reporting lines envisaged for the Tourism Board include ONE as well as the Leadership Board. **JL** to amend.

JL

GG asked for suggestions on Board representation.

All

5 A SHORT UPDATE ON THE GOVERNMENT’S CITY REGION POLICY

JB feels that the work done to date is heading in the right direction, but that there is still some distance to travel. However, the sense of transformation is evident and the prospects for change are strong.

JB stated that the Local Government White Paper endorsed local government as the foundation stone of democratic accountability, and the work done to date on TVU and the emerging Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) is fully in tune with this.

JB pointed out that the SNR is identifying the need to build a strong analytical capacity, particularly in terms of investment. The headlines from the SNR are expected towards the end of June or early July, and the Tees Valley is well placed to take advantage of any opportunities that this will afford.

PR re-iterated that it is difficult to predict the outcome of the SNR, but that there will probably be a move to greater clarity of responsibility at a regional level and a greater level of devolution of delivery to the sub-regional level.

PR introduced the re-shaping of ONE to reflect this likely outcome, with the Agency becoming much more “strategic” in nature, with delivery focused through partnerships. Further proposals will be brought to future meetings.

JB stated that further consultation papers on business simplification and the role of Communities England were also due towards the end of June.

Action

TC pointed out that the Leitch Review Implementation Plan was also due to be published shortly, setting out how the Government intends to fund the needs of adult skills. This will need to be examined in more detail by the Employment and Skills Board when published.

**6 WORK PROGRAMME FOR TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED
2007/08**

JL offered a paper for decision.

PW wishes to reflect the links to regional bodies and agencies when developing TVU in more detail.

AB felt that the Executive needs to take advantage of opportunities to communicate the value of TVU to external parties. **CL** suggested that a Communications Strategy be drawn up, which would be useful for internal consultations as well as external partners. This would also help the links to be established with the Local Strategic Partnerships. **JL** to consider.

JL

GG suggested that a launch event for TVU may be appropriate as part of the Communications Strategy, with proposals to be brought to a future meeting.

PR stated that there may be a need as TVU develops to review which partners take the lead on/contribute to various elements.

PR also felt that the Regional Employability Framework needs to be referenced within the work programme, and that care should be taken not to duplicate work already undertaken when developing the Employability and Skills Strategy. **CL** endorsed this view, as the Tees Valley's representative on the working group.

CL also feels that it will be important to manage a number of cross-cutting issues, and good practice guidance on LAAs may help with this process.

TC stated that the employment and skills agenda is a huge challenge to the Tees Valley, and there is a need to identify the infrastructure required to support future needs as a early part of developing future strategies.

Action

JR felt that there will need to be a more active signposting process for the various reports once TVU was fully functional, in order that partners can identify relevant papers, particularly when papers are being presented to the five sub-Boards within a short period of time. This is to be considered as part of the Communications Strategy.

PR suggested that there needs to be a sense of priority within the work programme. The Executive agreed that this task should be undertaken by each of the sub-Boards at their first meetings.

TVU sub-Boards

Resolved that the report be approved by the Executive, subject to the changes highlighted, and presented to the Leadership Board. **GG** requested that the report be presented in a presentation-style format for the Leadership Board.

JL

7 MULTI-AREA AGREEMENT – PROGRESS

JL offered a paper for decision.

Resolved that the report be endorsed by the Executive and presented to the Leadership Board.

8 SINGLE PROGRAMME 2006/07 – OUTTURN REPORT

JL offered a paper for decision.

Resolved that the report be endorsed by the Executive and presented to the Leadership Board.

9 SINGLE PROGRAMME 2007/08 – SPEND POSITION

JL offered a paper for decision.

PR pointed out that ONE is moving towards an investment plan approach to the deliver the RES Action Plan beyond 2008, with an aim to agree the key funding commitments beyond 2008 by November 2007, based on the key priorities identified by the City Region.

PR also felt that it was important to be clear about the most appropriate delivery arrangements for each of the projects.

GG stressed that the Single Programme was only one element of TVU's programme, and that future progress reports will also reflect the other funding streams.

Action

Resolved that the report be endorsed by the Executive and presented to the Leadership Board.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GG invited suggestions as to anything that could be done better as Tees Valley Unlimited evolves. All

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

- Wednesday 22 August 2007
- Wednesday 28 November 2007
- Wednesday 27 February 2008

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