

**BRIDGING NEWCASTLEGATESHEAD BOARD
 FRIDAY 13 JULY 2007
 MINUTES**

Present:

Jim Coulter	Chair
Donald Urquhart	English Partnerships
Malcolm Levi	Independent
Douglas Taylor	Newcastle LSP Representative
David Leeder (rep Sheila Johnston)	Gateshead Council
Councillor Mike Cookson	Newcastle City Council
Tom Warburton	One NorthEast
Marie Fallon	Newcastle City Council

Observers:

Jim Darlington	Government Office for the North East
Philip Stevens	New Deal for Communities
Bill Carr (rep Julie Jacques)	Housing Corporation

Officers in Attendance:

Anne Mulroy	BNG
Karen Anderson	BNG
Ian Mackintosh	BNG
Jonathan Dunk	BNG
John Sparkes	BNG
Peter Scott (rep Linden Watson)	Gateshead Council
Julia McAweaney	BNG (minutes)

Action

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sheila Johnston (David Leeder attending), Councillor David Napier, Gev Pringle, Kehri Ellis (Douglas Taylor attending), Julie Jacques (Bill Carr attending) and Linden Watson (Peter Scott attending).

The Board congratulated Philip Stevens on his Honour and welcomed John Sparkes, BNG's new Head of Development.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

David Leeder – Gateshead Site: personal but non-prejudicial.

Donald Urquhart, Tom Warburton and Jim Darlington – RSS Response – interests across the wider area.

Jim Coulter – Audit Commission Scrutiny Report – as Audit Commission Board Member – personal but non-prejudicial.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

- Page 3, Board Membership – No success yet in recruiting independent Board Members meeting the skills and gender specification. Will remain in contact with the CBI and approach Business in the Community. Malcolm Levi will supply the name of the agency Home Housing use for recruiting Board Members. JC
ML
- Expo – OJEU notice has gone out so won't be allowed to talk to anyone about the Expo, ie NCC as tenderer and BNG team, but Board Members to use judgement. Seeking expressions of interest. Final application will be delivered 10 August.
- BME and New Migrants Study and Creative and Cultural Sector Study will be on the website from the end of July. KA
- The Chair then signed the minutes as a correct record.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Communities England Consultation

- Linked to the Sub National Review on Economic Development due on Monday so won't respond until aware of the implications. The Housing Green paper would also be out shortly. A response will be prepared to be agreed by BNG Chair and Director and for information at the Board in September. Agreed. KA
AM/JC
- There is only reference to HMR in two paragraphs. Programme Management will transfer to Communities England which means that strategy and funding arrangements will stay with Local Government. There is no mention of the accountability framework changing. Funding route from 2009 is that the decision is taken centrally and routed through MAA.
- One NorthEast are co-ordinating a joint RDA response and also co-ordinating a Northern Way response so there may be some co-ordination necessary about what is said on a national level with Pathfinders. This will be picked up after meeting. JC/TW

CLG Business Plan 2008/11

- A letter from CLG was attached to the report.
- The Business Plan template was agreed with CLG after consultation with Directors. It will be 30 pages max.
- A cross-partnership Steering Group has been established and responsibilities have been allocated within the team. The Advisory Group have placed BNG well in terms of Strategic Commission Reviews and most of the information is available for completion of the Business Plan.

- A constructive meeting took place with Nick Brown MP, Councillor John Shipley, Councillor Mike Cookson, Marie Fallon, Anne Mulroy and Jim Coulter. The public expenditure needs of BNG were emphasised and the strong inter-connectivity between regional and sub regional strategies. The Chair has invited Nick Brown to take part in a round-table discussion prior to the Business Plan submission and he had indicated his willingness in principle to do that. Councillor Shipley is organizing another meeting re Walker. The Chair will follow up the meeting with some more detailed points to Nick Brown, including assistance with securing the Gateshead Site.

JC

Audit Commission Report

- The report was circulated with the Board papers and signals good progress. It acknowledges the completion of the 7 recommendations of the Strategic Review report last year. The next Review will be in October, lasting 5 days, which will be more of a strategic review of the whole programme. Anne will circulate what the more detailed reviews will cover.
- A question was asked about the National Audit Office report on the Pathfinder programme – a draft should be available this month, However BNG have just received an information request so the final publication date remained unclear.

AM

Strategic Risk Register

- An examination of the risk register will be done as part of the Business Plan process and a joint group with the partner authorities has been established to look at risk in a more focused way.
- In 2008/11 delivery risk is greater because of big projects both sides of the river and partnership delivery capacity needs to increase. This risk needs to be mitigated as far as possible. The change in funding arrangements and institutional arrangements are also a risk. The Chair requested the risk group to have an active view of this before the Business Plan for 2008/11 funding is signed off. The Chair also stressed the need to be clear about political risk – local and national.
- BNG are setting up a strategic risk workshop to which Board Members will be invited. The Corporate Risk Manager at NCC has been approached to see if they can carry out the workshop. The Board will be kept informed.

IM

IM

Community Engagement Event

- The event was successful - well attended.
- Gev Pringle was chair and there were various presentations - Gateshead Neighbourhood Planning and Walker Riverside on the placemaking event. Sally Thomas from Social Regeneration Consultants gave a talk about community development and development of community assets. Claire Morgan from Oldham Rochdale Pathfinder talked about their experiences and what types of community engagement BNG could use.
- Looking to develop a sounding board to develop ideas for the future.
- Information and presentations will be on the BNG intranet.

- Community Engagement Styles – BNG are going to commission Sally Thomas to write up experiences and record the development of the placemaking principles and how they are being applied across Walker Riverside at the moment.
- This is a substantial piece of best practice and should be promoted as such. AM

Gateshead Strategic Site

- A full report features later on the agenda and will go to Gateshead Cabinet 17 July.

Research Update

- An important piece of research is being undertaken with Professor Glen Bramley on Modelling Future Markets, to look at what interventions are having maximum impact on the housing market.
- Also looking at Value in Design - now that BNG are moving into delivery need to look at the value of design standards and their impact on the market.
- The Board highlighted the need to manage the boundary created by high quality public realm, monitor maintenance costs, looking at how maintenance is delivered in the future and how these two issues can be brought together. This will be taken on board by the Design Workstream. JS
- Public Art will also be included in the brief. KA

Sustainable Development Commission Report

- BNG were quoted from the above report at the Communities England event yesterday. The report contained an in depth case study on BNG and was positive, particularly in relation to community engagement. Anne Mulroy attended the launch recently and Anne Power spoke highly of BNG.
- Anne will be attending a CLG seminar around MAA on Monday and on 23 July has been invited to the CLG Growth Summit 'Housing for the Next Generation'.

5. REVIEWS OF STRATEGIC INTERVENTION AREAS

- Karen Anderson gave an update presentation on the visioning document and Strategic Commission Reviews.
- A sensitivity check of the wording used in the document will be carried out and the use of 'policy speak' will be avoided. Will make clear in the document that the benefit is to existing as well as new communities so that the emphasis on people is as strong as the emphasis on place. KA
- One NorthEast have put together Single Programme expenditure so should be able to have discussions with NewcastleGateshead about complementary development to ensure alignment between programmes. TW/KA
- Strategic Commission Review summing up session 18 September.

- It was noted that linkages with Sustainable Communities strategies should be mentioned in the document and how BNG fits that. Also, enhanced partnership working (reports going to Cabinets this month) should be incorporated. KA
- Education provision in Gateshead was also discussed.
- Visualisation in the document will be important and the Chair requested a 'money map' which demonstrates how the resources are hitting the area so this can be demonstrated to CLG. Work is already underway on this. JD/IM
- NCC have found the reviews helpful and it has enabled them to co-ordinate their funds more effectively.
- A report on the reviews will go to the Board on 21 September.

6. Q1 BUSINESS PLAN

- The amber in the Business Plan is to highlight to the Board where BNG has slipped on progress and the date has been changed. This doesn't alter the ability to complete in that area during the year.
- The only red is on page 13 which is Board Membership, discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Noted.

7. PROGRAMME UPDATE

- The report was tabled and introduced by Ian Mackintosh.
- The programme does include a significant level of over-programming but is appropriate at this stage. This will be monitored closely. IM
- After the end of the first Quarter have approved virtually the whole programme. Progress has been made on all of the targets and there are no concerns.
- There is a slight increase in revenue expenditure this year, however funding swaps will be needed again at the end of the financial year to ensure the revenue target is not exceeded.
- Discussion took place at the Appraisal Panel and officers were confident with regard to the level of commitment.
- A question was asked about start on site figures. Most of the schemes are on site but they can't be counted until complete. The report will be amended to include start on site date. IM

8. REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

- The response highlights that there are too many priorities within the RSS.
- The net average annual additions have seen an increase across the programme inc North Tyneside and Blyth, also Newcastle as a whole. However for Gateshead there is on average 70 less allocation per year.
- Greater emphasis on sustainability, employment sites, density.

- Gateshead are making their own representation and changes have been introduced by the Panel. The Gateshead figure is being addressed and is likely to be increased.
- Also, Gateshead are working closely within Tyne and Wear as 5 LAs have strategic issues regionally on the distribution of new housing development.
- BNG should strongly support Gateshead and identify core urban area concentration as a key feature of the final RSS bearing in mind the significant growth in household projections. KA
- BNG's response should strongly emphasise the point on numbers. KA
- The Panel is recommending significant changes in terms of employment provision and the Secretary of State has asked about sites, ie importance of sites and location – BNG's response should comment on this. KA
- Allocation is higher for NCC and BNG will have ongoing discussion with NCC officers to ensure BNG sites are brought forward. KA

9. **BNG INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

- The report was noted as a process document and the sensitive text will be removed so it will not be treated as a confidential report. IM

10. **STRATEGIC SITE IN GATESHEAD**

- This confidential report was introduced by Jonathan Dunk and the recommendations agreed.

11. **ANNUAL REPORT 2006/7**

- Copies of the report, incorporating the audited financial summary submitted to CLG, were tabled. Members commented on the good quality account of a year of significant activity.

12. **AUDIT COMMISSION SCRUTINY REPORT**

- Good report.
- There were issues around leakage of expenditure into Highways activity.
- Range of other progress items and all of the urgent progress items have been achieved.
- Work has already started on addressing the action points in the report.
- The Chair asked that the risk review group look at some elements of the report, eg capacity issues. IM
- Equality and diversity will be one of the elements covered in the next visit. A new framework has been agreed that includes more complementary activity. This will require partners to update Yvonne Taylor as well as BNG officers.

13. **PROJECT APPRAISAL PANEL MINUTES**

- 6 July minutes to follow.

ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES

- Copies of 6 June and 4 July minutes circulated with Board minutes.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- No discussion.

15. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

- 10.30am, Friday 21 September at Gateshead Civic Centre.