

Meeting:	BNG Board
Date:	14 March 2008
Contact:	Anne Mulroy
Board Action:	For Discussion
Sensitivity:	Public

<b>Subject:</b> <b>Item 4 – Director’s Report</b>
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Items covered in this report are:-

- Funding Announcement
- Audit Commission Performance Review
- Update on Growth Point Submission
- Progress on Newcastle and Gateshead LAAs
- BNG Sounding Panel (working title)
- Gateshead Site
- Service Level Agreement progress

## 1. **Funding Announcement**

BNG allocation of funding for 2008/11 was made on 27 February. The allocation is £95 million, £34 million for 2008/9 and an indicative allocation of £32 million for 2009/10 and £29 million for 2010/11.

The allocations for Years 2 and 3 of the programme are subject to change of up to plus or minus 10%. Final numbers will be confirmed in January of each of these years and will be subject to performance in:

- Working with the new Homes and Communities Agency
- Making links with Growth initiatives. Market Renewal partnerships will be expected to take a greater role in these programmes
- Involving the private sector and taking advantage of some of the new approaches English Partnerships and the new Agency are developing.

## 2. **Audit Commission Performance Review**

Following the funding announcement the Audit Commission Performance Review has now been published on their website. We are completing our analysis of the performance of each Pathfinder to assess any further improvements that can be made to our performance and potential learning from each other (a summary is enclosed).

The allocation for the 3 year period is very good, however despite the ‘performing strongly’ assessment from the Audit Commission, it will be necessary to manage resources effectively and look for innovative funding mechanisms with the private sector and achieve alignment with other funding streams, particularly SHIP, to maximise the benefit of the allocation.

### 3. **Growth Point Submission**

An announcement is expected on 13 March which will approve a shortlist of submissions to move to the next stage of preparation of a Programme of Delivery to be completed in July/August. An update will be given at the meeting.

### 4. **Progress on Newcastle Gateshead LAAs**

#### **Gateshead LAA**

The Director has recently joined the Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group as the representative of the Central Area Forum.

The meeting of the Forum on 4 March considered the draft LAA, its targets and measures identified. This will now be submitted to Government Office. The focus of the LAA for 2008/11 will be:-

- Prevention and focus on children and young people
- Growing the economy for all
- Focus on communities
  - Connected
  - Stronger
  - Healthier
  - Sustainable

#### **Newcastle LAA**

The Director is now a member of the Newcastle Partnership Innovation Group which is Chaired by Cllr John Shipley, Leader of the Council and reports to the Newcastle Partnership Board.

At its meeting on 25 February the Group considered the second draft of the LAA, which was discussed and approved for submission to Government Office. Following feedback from Government Office the final draft will be considered by the City Council in April by which time further work will have been completed on refining the delivery sections of the document as well as targets and performance indicators.

The document sets out the priorities:-

- Economy
- Health and well-being
- Environmental impact
- Creating quality places
- Safe inclusive and cohesive
- Children and young people

and details the big challenges and big actions required to take these forward.

## 5. **BNG Sounding Panel**

Draft proposals for the BNG sounding panel were taken to the last Community Engagement Workstream for discussion. Elements of the panel considered by the workstream included recruitment of members, length of membership and remuneration issues. The workstream is now feeding back comments on the proposals, and research into other similar forums is continuing to take place, including a meeting with Places for People to find out about their Futures Group.

The sounding panel proposals will subsequently be collated and reported to the next BNG Board meeting for discussion and agreement.

It is anticipated that recruitment of members will begin in June/July with the first meeting to take place in August/September. This will allow for time to work with the Community Empowerment Network in Gateshead, and its equivalent in Newcastle, to identify and recruit members.

## 6. **Gateshead Site**

An update on progress will be given at the meeting.

## 7. **Service Level Agreement**

Work is continuing on the production of a Service Level Agreement between BNG, Newcastle and Gateshead in relation to the current capacity costs allocated to each organisation.

The purpose of the Agreement is:-

- To specify the functions to be carried out by each of the partner for the continued partnership working of Bridging Newcastle Gateshead (BNG).
- To specify the amount of revenue funding available to each partner for these three years.
- To allow deliver partners greater flexibility to manage resources provided through BNG to deliver the outcomes identified in the document.
- To ensure a clearer understanding of the delivery of key outcomes by all partners that are central to the continued operation of the partnership.
- To establish a formal process for reviewing and improving the way in which the partnership operates.

The document is currently in draft form but will be reported for approval at the May Board.