

Meeting:	BNG Board
Date:	15 May 2009
Contact:	Anne Mulroy
Board Action:	For Discussion
Sensitivity/FOI:	Public

Item 4 – Director’s Report

Summary Report:

Items covered in this report are:-

- Board and Project Appraisal Panel Membership
- HCA Performance Management
- Audit Commission
 - Innovation and Market Response
 - Annual Report and Review of HMR Pathfinders
- NCC – Governance Review
- Board Awayday
- Communications Update
- Budget Implications for BNG
- Annual Report
- Update on ‘Fit for a City’ Gateshead Council
- Update on NCC Transformation Programme
- 1NG
- Towards a New Narrative for Market Renewal – Pathfinder Chairs’ Submission

Recommendations:

The Board are asked to note this report.

Implications:

Financial:

Equality:

Sustainability:

Consultation:

Risk:

Strategic:

Financial:

Development:

Operational:

Reputational:

Report to: BNG Board – 15 May 2009

Subject: Director's Report

Agenda Item: 4

1. **BOARD AND APPRAISAL PANEL MEMBERSHIP**

Gateshead Strategic Partnership have nominated Bill Fullen to replace Gev Pringle as their representative on BNG Board.

In accordance with the revised Governance arrangements an additional representative will be nominated by both the Newcastle and Gateshead Strategic Partnerships. Gateshead have nominated Steve Stokoe with Graham Smith as his deputy.

Newcastle are having discussions within their Partnership and aim to agree their nominee at the Strategic Board on 16 June. It is hoped that both new members will be able to attend July Board.

In addition, Gill Robson, Senior Lecturer, School of the Built Environment, Northumbria University has attended the last Project Appraisal Panel as an observer and her appointment therefore needs to be confirmed. Board are asked to note the progress being made and approve the appointments to the Board and Project Appraisal Panel.

2. **HCA PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

Attached as Appendix 1 to this report is a letter dated 9 April 2009 from the HCA setting out a number of key issues. The letter addresses:

- the proposal to move away from a Deed of Variation;
- the adjustment of output indicators to reflect future funding;
- output reporting and financial claim profiles; and
- the Audit Commission work plan and associated costs.

3. **AUDIT COMMISSION**

Innovation and Market Response Framework for Review

- This review is part of the Audit Commission work programme with BNG. An inception meeting was held on 6 May and responses to the Framework will be completed by 29 May. There will be a follow up meeting at the end of June but, in the main, this is a desk top review based on evidence we will submit. The process will be completed by August 2009. The Framework is attached at Appendix 2 for information.

Annual Report and Review of Market Renewal Pathfinders

- Publication of the Annual Report is imminent but unlikely to be available before Board. An update on any issues for Board from the draft report will be given verbally.

4. **NCC GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

NCC are currently reviewing their area Governance arrangements for Regeneration. An initial report on proposals was approved by NCC Executive on 11 March 2009 and a consultation process is underway. BNG will prepare a response to the consultation which will be reported back to the Board.

5. **BOARD AWAYDAY**

Following the recent one to one meetings between the Board Members and the Chair, it was agreed that a Board Awayday be held in September to review the futures issues raised. Pat Ritchie, Regional Director of HCA, has been invited to attend and the suggested date is Friday 18 September.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

BNG Residents' Panel

- The BNG Residents' Panel met for the second time at the end of April with the meeting focusing on the Practical, Affordable Housing Solutions work. Following a presentation which outlined the work, the panel members participated in an informal discussion, offering their views, which are included in item 11 of this agenda. The next meeting will take place at the end of June and will give the members an overview of BNG, followed by a discussion around community engagement techniques, with specific reference to how best to keep communities informed and engaged in the current market. A tour of the BNG area is also planned for the summer to give the members an insight into the work we are delivering on the ground. There are 11 members appointed to the Panel to date. These include 7 representatives from Gateshead and 4 from Newcastle – we are seeking to appoint more members from Newcastle to maintain a balance. All panel members have been offered the chance to take part in a bespoke community development course, which is also open to officers. The course, which is based on participants' own experiences of community development, is set to begin in June.

Stakeholder Newsletter

- The latest version of our stakeholder newsletter 'threesixty' is currently being produced. Focusing on Renewal and Growth, and how we are responding to the market downturn, the newsletter will be sent out at the end of May.

Events

- We have a number of events coming up. On 20th May, an event about the 'NewcastleGateshead Story of Housing Growth' will take place between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. The event will include presentations by Karen Anderson and Martin Crookston of Tribal, and an opportunity for questions and answers with local authority lead officers. In June/July, Iain Wright MP will be launching the Practical, Affordable Housing Solutions. The exact format for this event is to be confirmed but is likely to focus on visits to two sites – one in Newcastle and one in Gateshead. Finally, Thursday 9th July will see the annual community engagement event take place at Gateshead College. The main speaker is yet to be confirmed, but the event – which will focus on the theme of 'Innovative Community Engagement to Maintain Resident Confidence' – will include two practical workshops and an opportunity to participate in a tour of the BNG area.

National Communications

- The national strategy has been agreed by chairs and directors and now the strategy will be delivered. All pathfinders will receive monitoring information about parliamentary questions and references to the programme made by politicians. The Public Affairs agency, who have been appointed to handle the national communications activity, will make recommendations for coordinated pathfinder comment in response to any key national press reports, ministerial comments etc. The responses will be coordinated by Oldham Rochdale/New Heartlands on behalf of all the pathfinders – however the recommendations will be circulated to all pathfinders to make sure that we are happy with the approach recommended. The next national communications meeting is at the end of May when a workshop will be delivered on regional stakeholder communication techniques.

7. BUDGET IMPLICATIONS FOR BNG

Key Budget Measures 2009

- £500 million to stimulate housing development:
 - £400 million to unlock currently stalled developments through gap, equity and infrastructure funding, and expansion of HomeBuy Direct and increased funding for affordable housing;
 - £100 million for local authorities to deliver new social housing at higher energy efficiency standards.
- The announcement of two pilot city regions – Greater Manchester and Leeds - with joint investment boards with RDAs and the HCA, as well as commitment to work with city-regions and local authorities to explore the potential of Accelerated Development Zones.
- £84million for the HCA to improve the insulation of homes in the social rented sector.
- £21.96 million for the HCA to deliver low carbon community heating projects in the Growth Areas.
- Extending the criteria for the Mortgage Rescue scheme to include households in negative equity, alongside other measures to support homeowners in difficulty.
- Delaying the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy until April 2010.
- A commitment to report at the 2009 Pre-budget report on land supply, infrastructure delivery measures and the policy and regulatory framework for housing supply going forward.

Building Britain's Future – the full details of the Budget can be accessed at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud09_repindex.htm

8. **ANNUAL REPORT**

Work has started on the Annual Report, the theme proposed is 'Partnership, People, Place, Potential.' To link into the Annual Report, it is proposed that a DVD, featuring interviews with individuals, is produced. The 5-minute DVD would include interviews with a River's Gate buyer, a resident who has been relocated in Gateshead, members of the Residents' Panel and Anne Mulroy. The DVD would be sent out with the Annual Report to give stakeholders a real insight into the work we have delivered to date and how that benefits residents. The DVD would also be available for use in presentations and on our website. The Annual Report and DVD would be sent out by Friday 12 July.

The Board is asked to agree the above proposals.

9. **UPDATE ON 'FIT FOR A CITY', GATESHEAD COUNCIL**

Sheila Johnston will give a brief presentation on the Gateshead Centre Regeneration Delivery Strategy.

10. **UPDATE ON NCC TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**

David Slater will give a brief update on the NCC Transformation Programme and the implications for BNG.

11. **1NG ECONOMIC MASTERPLAN**

A brief update will be given to the Board on the progress of 1NG Economic Masterplan and any implications for BNG which arise from the meeting with 1NG consultants on 14 May.

12. **TOWARDS A NEW NARRATIVE FOR MARKET RENEWAL**

Attached as Appendix 3 of this report is a paper to be presented by the Pathfinder Chairs to Iain Wright, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Sir Bob Kerslake, HCA Chief Executive, at a meeting on 12 May. A verbal update on the meeting and discussion of the paper will be given at Board.