

Meeting:	BNG Board
Date:	16 May 2008
Contact:	Anne Mulroy
Board Action:	For Discussion
Sensitivity:	Public

**Subject: Item 5 – Director’s Report**

Items covered in this report are:-

- Audit Commission arrangements 2008/09
- Growth Point Submission
- Gateshead site
- Board Awayday
- Deed of Variation
- Year End Celebration

#### 1. **Audit Commission Arrangements 2008/09**

Yvonne Taylor has now been appointed as Head of Housing Markets on the retirement of Mike Maunder. Arrangements for 2008/09 will be:-

- i) Performance Review in August based on the framework introduced last year. The audit will take up to 5 days, preparation and planning will start next month.
- ii) On site visit in Autumn to focus on Value for Money. The methodology for this will be discussed at the Finance Forum of Pathfinders on 11 June.

Both reviews will be used to assess the award of the performance element of 2009/10 programme.

A report on Respect activity across all of the Pathfinders will be published shortly. An update will be provided at the meeting.

Market Renewal Good Practice Guide to Regenerating Communities will be launched on 19 May and the following case studies from BNG have been included as Good Practice examples:-

- Modelling future Markets
- Housing Market Intelligence model including the vitality index.
- Understanding various market sectors.
  - 'Promoting Community Cohesion through Housing Market Renewal' - a report examining the size and makeup of the areas BME community including migrant workers from Eastern Europe. This looked to understand the housing design features that were important to them and how the HMR programme could help deliver these;
  - a study looking at the regeneration case for attracting and retaining more creative and cultural professionals - and how HMR interventions could help facilitate this; and

- gaining a greater understanding of the perceptions and positive aspects of Newcastle and Gateshead that could persuade recent graduates and the economically active to stay or be attracted to the pathfinder area.
- Community Engagement Toolkit and Budget
- Selective licensing in Gateshead
- Walker Riverside Area Action Plan
- Boklok Scheme Gateshead
- Walker Riverside Design Code
- Walker Riverside Place Marketing and Communications

Further examples will be included from future performance reviews. The Guide will be available on the Audit Commission website.

## 2. **Growth Point Submission**

Most recent advice from CLG is that a further announcement is unlikely until the end of June. This further delay follows a request for more detailed information on infrastructure requirements.

## 3. **Gateshead Site**

A further update will be given at the meeting on the progress of this site.

## 4. **Board Awayday**

The Awayday for all Board Members will be held on Wednesday 2 July at the Live Theatre.

Members are asked to consider any issues they may wish to include in the agenda which will focus on a discussion of the future of BNG in our current/future operating environment.

## 5. **Deed of Variation**

The Deed of Variation will be for one year 2008/09. A draft has been received and is currently with each Local Authority to consider the match funding details and targets.

Discussions are taking place on how the investment proposal for Scotswood will be implemented. This is likely to be settled outside the current Deed and will be subject either to an exchange of letters of a Memorandum of Understanding. An update will be given at the meeting.

## 6. **Year End Celebration**

BNG will host an informal celebration of the successful completion of the programme in the office on the afternoon of 1 July.

This event is mainly focussed on project officers to mark the successful completion of the programme and targets for the year.