

**BRIDGING NEWCASTLEGATESHEAD BOARD
 FRIDAY 18 MAY 2007
 MINUTES**

Present:

Jim Coulter	Chair
Eric Morgan	Independent
Malcolm Levi	Independent
Gev Pringle	Gateshead LSP Representative
Douglas Taylor	Newcastle LSP Representative
Sheila Johnston	Gateshead Council
Councillor David Napier	Gateshead Council
Councillor Mike Cookson	Newcastle City Council
Tom Warburton	One NorthEast
George Kelly (rep Marie Fallon)	Newcastle City Council

Observers:

Jim Darlington	Government Office for the North East
Philip Stevens	New Deal for Communities

Officers in Attendance:

Anne Mulroy	BNG
Karen Anderson	BNG
Ian Mackintosh	BNG
Jonathan Dunk	BNG
Bill Carr	BNG
John Sparkes	BNG
Linden Watson	Gateshead Council
Alan Sears	Expo Project Manager (for Expo item)
John Devlin	Director of Development & Enterprise, Gateshead Council (for presentation at item 9)
Julia McAweaney	BNG (minutes)

Action

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Donald Urquhart, Marie Fallon (George Kelly attending), Kehri Ellis (Douglas Taylor attending), Julie Jacques, Tony Earnshaw.

As this was Eric Morgan's last meeting, the Chair presented him with a gift and thanked him for his input at the Board. Eric will continue to be a member of the Advisory Group.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Sheila Johnston – Gateshead Site: personal but non-prejudicial.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

- Page 2 (Expo), Councillor Cookson had concerns about security 'hardware' in the area.
- Page 3, Councillor Napier will arrange the meeting with MPs. It was acknowledged that the support of MPs for more resources for Tyneside was vital.
- Page 6, The Board's views have been incorporated into the Community Engagement Strategy and a launch event will take place on 12 July. There is a general acceptance that there are engagement issues that the Board needs to work on.
- Page 8, Creative and Cultural Sector Findings, Karen is working with consultants to get the standard of report BNG wants. It should be available next month.
- The Minutes were then signed as a correct record.

Cllr Napier

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Strategic Commissions Reviews** are making good progress, as is the 'Story of Change'. A suite of documents will be developed which will enable BNG to move towards a Business Plan process – submission date to CLG is October this year. A timetable will be available by the end of June. There should be enough material about future vision and detail about the reviews to enable a discussion at the July Board. The Business Plan which will then go back to the October Board meeting before going to CLG. The Directors have asked for a specific timetable for a response to the Business Plan to avoid the problems encountered with the last scheme update and the delays in Ministerial decisions on funding levels.
- **Year End 2006/07** – All outputs have been achieved and the funding programme committed. There are some major projects ongoing and the effects of any slippage need to be considered for the 2007/08 programme. A tough focus on delivery is needed.
- **Business Plan** – This is complete and on the website. Progress is being reviewed this week and a report on Q1 performance will go to the July Board.
- **Performance Management Framework** – The Appraisal Panel has commented on a draft framework and will start to monitor Key Performance Indicators. The performance management framework will be extended across other areas of BNG's work.
- **Community Engagement Event** will take place 12 July. It will look at best practice and learning and will launch the community engagement booklet. There will be presentations from others on best practice in their area and TPAS will be in attendance. There will also be a national meeting to review community engagement activities.
- **Spending Review 2007** – By mid- June a CLG consultation document will be published on the establishment of Communities England. We should be in a position to have a discussion at the July Board about the

operation of Communities England. The broad intent was that spending management of HMR would go to Communities England but be transferred through MAA/LAAs but what seems unresolved is the relationship between HMR activity and the focus of the Regional Housing Board. The intention is that as part of the assessment CLG would seek advice from the Regional Housing Board on roles and requirements and there will be visits to the region – thought to be 20 & 21 June. The Regional Housing Board's first priority is renewal of the housing market in the region and BNG and Tees Valley are top of the list but the resource base is not known at present.

- **Board Membership Matters** – it was agreed that although Eric Morgan will no longer be a Board Member after this meeting, he will be appointed as a member of the Advisory Group.
- Jim met with Sarah Green, CBI's Regional Director and she will be looking to CBI network for a someone with the relevant experience and ensuring due attention is given to gender balance. Jim has invited Sarah to come as an observer to the next meeting.
- **Respect Delivery Plan** – Copies of the Audit Commission Baseline report published this week were circulated with the papers and copies of the Respect Delivery Plan were available at the meeting for information. There needs to be more consultation on the Respect Delivery Plan. It will go to the two Local Authorities, LSPs, New Deal for Communities and CRDP. The CRDP in Newcastle has a dedicated group working on Respect and there will be a meeting next Friday where the Delivery Plan will be discussed.
- **Partnership Working** – The recent partnering event was a success. Anne is writing an action plan to discuss with Marie and Sheila on Monday. Jim asked that, once the action plan is agreed, consideration be given to incorporating it into staff performance management systems in the three organizations. AM/MF/SJ
- **Area Governance Update** – Both partners are developing new governance structures. In Newcastle BNG will be represented on each of the Project Boards. Gateshead is looking at the reconfiguration of Cabinet portfolios which will start next week. BNG will be involved in the relevant Area Forums subject to the agreement of the Chair of each Forum.
- **Audit Commission Performance Review** – The draft report is not yet available.

5. PROGRAMME AND FINANCIAL UPDATE

- This report is not private and confidential as stated and will be published on the website along with other Board Papers and the Minutes.
- A replacement table from section 4 of the report was circulated at the meeting.
- £23m cash programme target has been hit exactly. There was no year end flexibility from CLG.
- Cashflow was on target.

- Outputs BNG are contractually obliged to deliver are detailed in the report and a non core outputs table was circulated at the meeting. BNG has more than achieved the contractual outputs and will achieve most of the non core outputs.
- Match funding details were tabled and the target has been achieved.
- Expenditure at the Gateshead site was raised but it was confirmed that English Partnerships had allowed their funding to be rolled forward into the next financial year.
- The non core outputs figure for community engagement will be checked for accuracy. IM
- A question was asked about 'banking' additional outputs from last year, given the pressure on this year's outputs, particularly new build outputs which over-performed by 12 last year but are short by 12 this year. A legitimate case could be put to CLG if necessary. Discussion had taken place at the Project Appraisal Panel last Friday with regard to this.
- An internal review of the confidential reports process will be carried out. AM/JC

6. SCOTSWOOD EXPO UPDATE

- Jonathan Dunk highlighted the major changes since the presentation to the January Board:-
 - a detailed project plan is available
 - development appraisal has been updated
 - Planning application is progressing
 - CPO is agreed
 - Cashflow model has been updated
 - Engagement has taken place with English Partnership and Housing Corporation
- The development appraisal shows a net present value gap, subject to further cost engineering and financial modeling.
- The outline planning application will be submitted 24 May and financial modeling will be completed and the OJEU notice issued 6 July.
- Work has been ongoing on completion of the masterplan development, including phase 1 of Expo. A meeting has taken place with Government Office in terms of spending priorities and a meeting was held with the Highways Agency yesterday. More traffic modelling is needed but there are no major problems. The application will be submitted at the end of this month with outline planning consent in August of this year.
- With regard to the development appraisal, there has been more technical design work which has informed the new cost plan.
- The development appraisal shows an aggregate value over a 10 year period. Funding modelling with King Sturge will look at the detail of who is covering debt and at what time and that will work into the cashflow analysis to get a good indication in terms of public sector requirements, ie investment and timing of investment. This work is due to be completed the second week in June.

7. PRIVATE SECTOR PROPERTY REFURBISHMENTS

- This was a confidential report. Pink copies of the report were circulated at the meeting.

8. BME RESEARCH PRESENTATION

- A presentation was given by Karen Anderson and copies were circulated.
- A question was asked about whether any lessons can be drawn regarding differing needs from BME and New Migrant groups, given that a lot of information is based on 2001 census. Karen indicated that interviews took place with specific new migrant communities – tried to get into some of the new communities but limited. Information has been requested from the Government to be able to understand the scale of new migrants. The ONS shows a big increase in new migrant population.
- Cruddas Park flats were mentioned, where a lot of voids have been filled in the last few years and a question asked about what BNG has learnt from that.
- Although the findings were felt to be helpful, there was concern about the small sample size and new communities and the direct reference to Czech Roma population, which has altered dynamics of the North Benwell area. NDC has been working with the Czech Roma community.
- Karen indicated that the findings are challenging but they do show that there is a need to address which communities live in an area and what their needs are and ensure they are included in any opportunities within the area.
- The findings will be on the website in June and the latest strategy will go to the September Board.
- This survey has implications for BNG and the Local Authorities. Some joint work should be undertaken in terms of the trends identified and implications of the trends over a period of time.

9. PRESENTATION BY JOHN DEVLIN, GATESHEAD COUNCIL

- A presentation of Plans for Gateshead Town Centre and GQ2 was made by John Devlin, Director of Development and Enterprise at Gateshead Council. This demonstrated the strong interconnections between the redevelopment of the riverfront, the town centre renewal and the improvement of the housing 'offer' in the BNG core area in Gateshead.
- Publications were available at the meeting.

10. RESPECT DELIVERY PLAN

- Copies were available for information.

11. **PROJECT APPRAISAL PANEL AND ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES**

- Minutes of 13 April Project Appraisal Panel were circulated with the papers. Minutes of 11 May meeting were tabled at the meeting.
- Advisory Group minutes of 4 May are attached with the minutes. 15 May minutes to follow.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- No discussion.

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

- 10.30am, Friday 13 July at Newcastle Civic Centre.