

**BRIDGING NEWCASTLEGATESHEAD BOARD
FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2007
MINUTES**

Present:

Jim Coulter	Chair
Councillor Mike Cookson	Newcastle City Council
Councillor David Napier	Gateshead Council
Sheila Johnston	Gateshead Council
Marie Fallon	Newcastle City Council

Observers:

Tom Smith (rep Jim Darlington)	Government Office for the North East
Bill Carr (rep Julie Jacques)	Housing Corporation

Officers in Attendance:

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

Action

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Donald Urquhart, Tom Warburton, Malcolm Levi, Jim Darlington (Tom Smith attending), Gev Pringle, Douglas Taylor, Julie Jacques (Bill Carr attending) and Linden Watson (Peter Scott attending).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

- Page 2, point 3 regarding Expo, 2nd bullet, the Council is 'tendering', not 'tenderer'.
- Page 2, point 4 regarding Communities England Consultation, 2nd bullet, the strategy and funding arrangements will stay with the 'Government', not 'Local Government'.
- Board Membership – approached consultants but costs were too high. No response from Sarah Green or Paul Woolston. The Chair will talk to Anne Mulroy and Mike Dixon at NGI about possible assistance with filling the two vacancies.

JC/AM

- Audit Commission – the next Review has been postponed until March next year due to the Business Plan process.
- The minutes were then signed as a correct record, after the above amendments, by the Chair.

4. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Response to Communities England Consultation

- Full response was attached as an appendix. BNG has welcomed the document but there are some key issues.

Progress on the Business Plan 2008/11

- Well on the way. Completion of the Strategic Commission Reviews enables the draft Business Plan to be pulled together. A sub group of those present at this meeting plus Donald Urquhart will sign off the Business Plan. Deadline for submission to CLG is 2 November.

AM/JMc

Regional Spatial Strategy

- A detailed note on the current RSS proposals and their implications for BNG is attached to the report. Timetable is still fluid but looking at a final draft end of this year / beginning of next year.

The Green Paper

- A summary prepared by NCC was attached to the report. BNG will submit a full response by 15 October. Opportunities outlined in the Green Paper will be included in the Business Plan. Response to include, as mentioned in the report, market renewal and growth and potential Growth Point Status Bid. Discussions have now started with Gateshead and Newcastle Councils about how the potential bid is progressed. It was agreed the Chair and director would clear the response for submission.

AM

AM/JC

The Sub National Review

- There has been formal agreement to establish the City Development Company (CDC). The Councils' respective Executive and Cabinet approved the report. A number of pieces of work have been done to test out the proposals but further work is needed in terms of business modeling etc. A group has been set up, headed by John Rundle, seconded from Government Office, to look at the process of establishing a body. A report will go back to Cabinet in a few months. It is seen as a positive step forward to building a joint working arrangement between the two Authorities. Start date is likely to be next April. Accountability arrangements are already happening informally. Care is being taken to ensure the development of the CDC doesn't impact on delivery of the projects in the area.
- The development of a CDC is important in terms of the Business Plan and need to stress that BNG is keen to take forward the proposals in the Green Paper and also the good relationship BNG has with its partners.

AM

Gateshead Site Acquisition

- An update on the current position was given by Sheila Johnston.

Appointment of New Member of Appraisal Panel

- The Board formally APPROVED the appointment of Colin Garbutt as a member of the Panel.

National Audit Office Review of CLG

- The Review will be published on 9 November and Anne Mulroy gave an update.

Draft Schedule of Board Meetings for 2008

- Circulated previously by email. Copies of the schedule were tabled at the meeting.

5. RISK REGISTER REVIEW

- Following the last Board it was decided that there needed to be a review of the risk register as it was then. Ian Mackintosh thanked Peter Scott and his team for co-ordinating the review at Gateshead.
- The register was circulated to 38 stakeholders for comments on how it may need to change. Following that there were 58 potential risks identified and a risk workshop was held with 15 officers from NewcastleGateshead. The nature of the way risks are assessed has changed. A standard risk management approach was needed. Each risk was worked through and ranked which led to 15 risks as red (very important/high importance), one as amber and one as green with mitigating actions which will be looked at by Programme Management Group. A report will then go to Appraisal Panel and a report to the Board on a 6-monthly basis.
- Risk 44 – Mitigation will be amended to be more 'active'. Action Plans are needed on what is happening. It is about an active relationship with key delivery partners rather than a performance management framework. Programme Management Group to look at how it is done. IM
- Risk 38 – Regular meetings with NGI Chair and Chief Executive are taking place. NGI could possibly assist with place marketing. PMG
- Buy to Let – Regular discussions take place at Strategy Leads meetings and no-one has resolved the issues yet. JC/AM
- A year end report will come back to the May Board. IM

6. STRATEGIC COMMISSIONS REVIEW AND BUSINESS PLAN 2008/11

- Karen Anderson gave a presentation.
- The review has been a thorough process and a useful discussion took place with the Minister for the North East at the round-up meeting last week.
- Iain Wright MP, Junior Minister, CLG visit early this week went well.

- The Changing Place document and review process has given BNG a clearer picture of the opportunities for a clear vision and the added value the Pathfinder is bringing to regeneration in the area. Will be significant leverage. Areas show a mixture of opportunity and need. Green Paper says to concentrate on the most needy areas but it is about getting a balance. BNG would still continue to assist where necessary in any areas not highlighted for significant HMR investment. The importance of continuing to work closely with partners was recognized. Housing is only one part of public realm investment. It is important to have quality public realm which is easy to maintain. This also reflects in design. This debate is taking place across the partnership and across the country.
- A pro-active approach to neighbourhood management encourages pride.
- The Chair and Anne Mulroy will pick up issues in relation to public realm and flexibility. Other key issue is the need for complementary funding for employment and neighbourhood to be taken up formally with Alan Clark and Pat Ritchie of One NorthEast with 'The Changing Place' final version. JC/AM
- Flexibility around the Business Plan process should be written in and BNG needs to ensure it keeps pressing CLG to allow greater flexibility in terms of outcomes and outputs. AM/KA
- There was a general discussion about the Deckham and Brandling areas of Gateshead and the importance of leverage and using assets. The Strategic Commission Review process has enabled BNG to be clear of its requirements of the Housing Corporation for each area. There is high expectation from the BNG Board that the Housing Corporation looks constructively at this process.
- Need to be clear in the Business Plan that it isn't about a list of projects but how to bring added value. KA
- With regard to the Sub National Review and the future of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, it is about how this can be built into place-making and how market renewal can be built in with neighbourhood agreement. HMR is an important part of place-making and incorporating that into the LAA. One NorthEast are also keen to play a part in the place-making agenda. Push for more creative use of funding, particularly due to LAA and New Deal, for example asset development.
- BNG has commissioned Professor Glen Bramley to do some impact assessment work. A draft report was produced and there is a meeting next week when there will be a more detailed report. Modelling is still to take place in relation to local impact assessment. Some key points are developing through looking at the Newcastle and Gateshead levels and different scenarios, including growth point levels and the effect on house prices and vacancies and other outcomes.
- Discussion took place in relation to confidential appendix 3 of the report.
- The Chair asked Sheila Johnston and Marie Fallon to convey warm thanks to Lead Officers for the work done in the Reviews and thanks to the BNG Team for the quality of the work tours and administration.
- The Board agreed that final approval of the Business Plan submission would be delegated to the Chair, Donald Urquhart, Marie Fallon, Sheila Johnston and the Director, involving the local authority Executive

Members as necessary. BNG's bid would be for £105M over the three years 2008-2011, as the average spend over the last four years.

7. **HMI REPORT FOR 6 MONTHS TO MARCH 2007**

- This confidential report was received.

8. **SPENDING REVIEW 2007 : FURTHER HMR SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS**

- The analysis shows that the core areas continue to be challenging and that HMR programmes are still required across the Partnership areas. The HMR Partnership Chairs will raise this with Hazel Blears on 10 October. JC
- The report has been distributed widely and will be released to the Trade Press first week in October. AM

9. **PROGRAMME UPDATE**

- £45m has been approved to date. 10% over-programmed but confident that there will be no overspend at the end of the financial year.

10. **PROJECT APPRAISAL PANEL MINUTES**

- 12 September minutes will follow.

ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES

- 7 September minutes were noted. 12 and 18 September minutes will follow.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- An update was given on the Housing Corporation Investment Prospectus and bidding round.

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

- 10.30am, Friday 23 November at Newcastle Civic Centre.