

## Appendix 1 - Review of River Based Leisure Facilities – Progress report

Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date/ Anticipated Completion Date	Evidence of Progress (8/12/08)	Assessment of Progress (Categories 1 – 4)
1. The Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services consider focussing a senior officer resource for a fixed term basis on the range of river development issues to lead and provide immediate momentum to the issues identified during the review, including:	Neil Schneider (Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services)	May 2008	Beccy Brown appointed May 2008 on a part-time, fixed term basis to lead and establish the work streams. A permanent member of staff from Regeneration has been assigned to the project to assist in the development work and to provide succession with the co-ordination role.	<b>1</b>
a) a review of the Tees Navigation Strategy;	Beccy Brown	30 June 2008	Review of the 2002 Tees Navigation Strategy complete. All proposed actions therein have been classified as: a) “completed” b) “replaced” or, c) “Still relevant but outstanding”  All actions that are “still relevant but outstanding” have been included within this action plan to be taken forward.	<b>1</b>
b) developing the River Tees Park proposals to an action plan stage;	Graham Clingan & (newly appointed River Tees Corridors Development Officer)	30 November 2008	Following a period of intense consultation the draft River Tees Park action plan has been produced by the River Tees Corridors Development Officer. She is currently clearing this draft through the Management Group (SBC, British	<b>1</b>

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			Waterways, Environment Agency & Groundwork). The Action Plan will be officially launched and publicized in the new year.	
c) to co-ordinate the diverse nature of water based activities on the river and develop a sustainable method of developing this sector, including a detailed review of the capacity of all water sports facilities, having regard to the potential relocation of facilities as part of the North Shore scheme;	Beccy Brown	30 June 2008	Work to improve the co-ordination of activities on the river is being pursued through 3 channels:  <b>(1) River Master plan</b>	<b>1</b>
	Beccy Brown	30 Sep 08	A map of all current and proposed activities on the river, identifying base, usage, capacity, issues, number of participants etc. has been produced. The mapping document identifies all development opportunities and potential changes which will affect these users.  The river users master plan document is constantly changing and will be kept up to date but in summary is an overview of the direction of travel for “on-river” developments. Note that <u>riverside</u> developments are included within the	<b>1</b>

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	Beccy Brown	Inaugural meeting 21 July 08 + regularly thereafter	<p>River Tees Park Action Plan.</p> <p><b>(2) The River Users Group (RUG)</b></p> <p>The River Users Group (RUG) has been established by SBC and involves all key users of the river and the river environs. The group was launched at a well attended and lively event on the Teesside Princess in July. The RUG will meet two or three times a year to share information, promote the river and to agree the overall strategy for the river development work. It will also monitor the work of the 4 working groups that it established to actually deliver development change on the river.</p> <p>The 4 working groups are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The River Marketing Group (see Action 1h below)</li> <li>• The River Stewardship Group (see Action 6 below)</li> <li>• The Development and Access</li> </ul>	<b>2</b>

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			<p>group (see Action 4 below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Co-ordination of Activities on the River. (see (3) below)</li> </ul> <p>Note that neither the RUG nor the working groups have been formally constituted nor has an organisation or brand been established, this reflects the medium term plan for this co-ordinating role to be taken over by the Tees River Trust. (see action 1e below )</p> <p><b>(3) “The Co-ordination of activities on the river” Working Group</b></p> <p>This working group is providing a specific forum to resolve regular timetable issues and to co-ordinate river based events.</p> <p>In addition to the three general strands of work specific support is being provided to The River Tees Water sports Centre who are undertaking a governance review and are facing issues associated with the capacity of the club.</p>	

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d) to explore options to maximise the funding available for the staging of major events linked to river based activities including development of an annual Stockton regatta in conjunction with partners including the University of Durham;	SMI, SBC, ONE, British Waterways and Tees Active	Summer 2008 – Summer 2010	<p>Two types of major river based event are being pursued:</p> <p><b>1. A major national professional sporting event on the river</b></p> <p>The primary aim of the National event will be to raise the national and international profile of the river and of Stockton on Tees as a “river” town.</p> <p>The aim is to increase participation and coverage of the SMI Triathlon. Building on the successful event in 2008 with the aim of qualifying for a British Grand Prix, Elite or National ranking event by summer 2010.</p> <p>The profile and coverage of the national Jet Skiing championships will be increased in 2009.</p> <p>Pre-Olympic opportunities to use the extended white water course for major national events are also being explored by ONE, SMI, SBC and British</p>	<b>2</b>

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	Beccy Brown	<p>May 2009</p> <p>New target date for River Week is <u>August 2009</u></p>	<p>Waterways.</p> <p>Opportunities to increase University usage are being explored.</p> <p><b>2. A mass participation river event</b></p> <p>The “River Week” festival is being planned to raise the local profile of the river and to increase usage of it as a resource within the Borough.</p> <p>A week of river related activities starting with a major river procession (the water equivalent of a fly-past with commentary) followed by free taster sessions offered by all river users. The week will continue with river related activities culminating in an awards ceremony for a major photographic competition “Our Beautiful Tees” Joe Cornish has agreed to judge the competition and an Olympic rower has agreed to cut the ribbon across the Tees to launch the opening flotilla.</p>	<b>2</b>

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			<p>The event is planned to be a major event for the area and to bring the river to life for the towns within the Borough. Connections will be made with community groups and significant points within the Borough which will last beyond the event itself.</p> <p>Work is currently focussed on securing a corporate sponsor and on timetabling the water based activities and open air show.</p> <p>The event will now take place in August 2009 to avoid as far as possible a clash with the development work at the White Water Course. The new date also dovetails with the Triathlon which will take place on the Sunday at the end of the week</p>	
e) to support the development of the 'Tees River Trust';	Beccy Brown	Ongoing	The exact structure and role of the proposed Trust (TRT) are still under development. The TRT will be an independent charity – SBC are providing support to the founding group.	<b>2</b>

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			Many aspects of the river development work included in this action plan can be handed over to the TRT as a successor organisation once initiatives have been given a kick start and the TRT has been established.	
f) developing the Council's relationship with managers of the Tees Barrage White Water Course to assist it in developing its full potential;	Beccy Brown	Ongoing	Positive relationship developed with the managers of the Tees Barrage, SMI and British Waterways.	<b>2</b>
	SMI / British Waterways	Summer 2009	A joint SMI and British Waterways team are progressing work on the WWC development. Tenders are being evaluated and the intention is still to carry out the extension work in 2009.	<b>2</b>
	Beccy Brown	ongoing	Work is also underway on the operational arrangements for the extended course. Positive discussions are being held to ensure that arrangements are in place in time to maximise the full potential of the new course.	<b>2</b>



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g) to undertake a feasibility study for a more regular water borne transport service, and to explore funding streams to achieve this, (including the Local Transport Plan);	Beccy Brown	Spring 2009	<p>Initial contacts have been made with a river taxi service in London and in Spalding Lincs. to understand the business model.</p> <p>Meetings have been held with British Waterways to understand the failure of the taxi service in Leeds. Discussions held with EMDA to review the unsuccessful bid for a water taxi service in Nottingham.</p> <p>If appropriate a feasibility study will be commissioned to review the potential in Stockton however further background investigations will be completed first.</p>	<b>2</b>
h) to develop a marketing and communications strategy to promote and market the river at the local, regional, national and international level, working with Visit Tees Valley where appropriate. This should include work:	Beccy Brown and Kay Wilson (SMI)	September 2008	A River Tees Marketing and Communications Strategy has been produced and adopted by the River Marketing Group.	<b>1</b>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to increase engagement with the local community</li> <li>- to engage with local business to promote the river-based opportunities available</li> </ul>	Beccy Brown	September 2009	Work is ongoing to identify a business partner to sponsor the river marketing work and the “River Week” event (see below)	<b>2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to develop a central hub of information including a website and a comprehensive information pack for users, including for schools use</li> </ul>	Beccy Brown	September 2008	Development work is ongoing on the web-site <a href="http://www.rivertees.org.uk">www.rivertees.org.uk</a> The test site design will be demonstrated at the committee meeting. The site will be launched in January 2009. Work has taken longer than planned due to IT workload issues.	<b>3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with Tees Active and Sports Development to raise the profile of</li> </ul>	Neil Russell	September 2009	Work is underway to produce a schools information pack and hold a schools launch day at the river. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with the development of the website. The schools pack will be made available via the web-site.	<b>2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with Tees Active and Sports Development to raise the profile of</li> </ul>	Beccy Brown & Heads of	December 2008 & March	Reviews of service plans will be undertaken to ensure that river based	<b>2</b>

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<p>water sports (including angling) as a sporting option for the people of the Borough and to ensure this is built into service planning</p> <p>- with CESC, governors and head teachers to ensure that the educational and sporting opportunities for children and young people are fully promoted to schools within the Borough;</p>	<p>Service</p> <p>Beccy Brown</p>	<p>2009</p> <p>March 2009</p>	<p>activities are included. Revised improvement priorities will be agreed and published in March 2009.</p> <p>CESC are closely involved in the plans to increase schools usage of the river. Direct discussions are also taking place with schools and river related opportunities for schools will be promoted through the schools pack (see above)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p>2. Cabinet endorse the Committee's expectations regarding quality of development, access to and interaction with the adjacent water space and ensure that these are included within the various development and regeneration projects in place, in particular:</p> <p>- within the North Shore master plan and the planning application itself;</p>	<p>Beccy Brown</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Initial positive meetings held with TVR re. North Shore Development, Reuben Kench re. Preston Park developments and the development team looking at plans for Bowesfield North.</p> <p>Ongoing dialogue is continuing to ensure that consideration of the river within these plans is included in a way which forms a part of a cohesive plan for the river.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>

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- within the final plans for re-development of Preston Park, recognising its importance as a gateway location;			The RUG – Development and Access Group is working on a statement outlining generic planning and development guidelines for any proposed developments within the River Tees Park. This document is initially designed to be used by the group to help it provide timely opinions on individual planning applications. However discussions are also ongoing with Planning Services to investigate whether the guidelines can be used as part of the evidence base to influence future planning policy within the emerging Local Development Framework.	
3. The Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services explore with partners, including HM Revenue and Customs, concerns surrounding business rates, mooring charges and rents for river-based businesses in Stockton Borough compared to other locations;	Beccy Brown	Spring 2009	Initial fact finding meetings held with river based businesses & investigation of mooring charges in other areas. Initial findings indicate that Stockton charges are comparable.	<b>2</b>

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4. The Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services so far as is possible and practical ensures that access to the river is maintained and improved where possible through the LDF process and individual planning applications themselves;	Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services ensures that river access is included within the consideration of planning applications.	<b>2</b>
5. Ensure that the opportunities for the Borough in relation to the period leading up to the 2012 Olympic Games (and future international sporting events such as Glasgow 2014) are maximised through work with regional partners in particular ONE- in particular the opportunities to host a range of associated events;	British Waterways & SMI	ongoing	Support is being provided to the White Water Course by SMI, British Waterways and ONE in developing the Olympic Pre Games offer.	<b>2</b>
6. The Head of Community Protection be tasked with collating accurate and reliable data relating to river-related crime and anti-social behaviour, and to explore how best to ensure that river users are aware of the correct reporting mechanisms;	Beccy Brown	July 2008	Safety and security reporting has been included within the remit of the River Stewardship group. Improvements in the accuracy of reporting and collating data will be addressed as well as action to reduce the problem.	<b>1</b>
	Beccy Brown	September 2008	Information on correct reporting mechanisms is included in the web-site	<b>3</b>

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			which will be launched in January 2009.	
<p>7. SBC and partners including British Waterways to ensure that all reasonable efforts are being made to ensure that the river remains safe, navigable and clean, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the expedient removal of HMS Kellington from Stockton riverside</li> <li>- the efficient removal of debris and obstructions in the river itself</li> <li>- the cleanliness of the immediate riverside environment including footpaths;</li> </ul>	<p>Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Beccy Brown</p>	<p>Spring 2009</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>HMS Kellington has been secured and detailed action plan for its safe removal is being prepared.</p> <p>The River Stewardship group is monitoring cleanliness of river and riverside and is forming a joint action force to deal with removal and clean up issues.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>2</b></p>
<p>8. Executive Scrutiny Committee be requested to include a review of issues surrounding the tourist promotion of the Borough within the scrutiny work</p>	<p>Executive Scrutiny Committee and appropriate</p>	<p>Feb 2009</p>	<p>PICK form completed and request lodged with Scrutiny Team</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>

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programme.	Select Committee			