#### **Minutes**

### The Eastern Area Partnership Board (EAPB) 31 March 2009, 5.30pm at The Five Lamps Organisation, Thornaby

#### **APPROVED BY EAPB ON 28 APRIL 2009**

#### Chair:

**Graeme Oram** (Five Lamps Organisation).

#### Members:

Philip Day (Holmes & Middlefield Residents Association) Insp Ian Garrett (Cleveland Police) Diane Patterson (Tees Credit Union) Carol Adams (Village Park Residents Association) Peter Brennan (Village Park Residents Association) Meg Collins (Over 50s Assembly).

\* Members are representing their nominating body.

#### **Advisors:**

Tracy Roberts (Stockton Residents & Community Groups Association) Andy Whinnerah, Beverley Cross, Kelly Smith, Nicola Hall, Simon Lee, Victoria Welsh, Chris Davey (Stockton Council) Neil O'Brien (Engage Associates).

#### **Observers:**

Dorothy Fairhurst (resident).

#### **Apologies**

#### Members:

Cllr Kevin Faulks (Stockton Council – Ingleby Barwick East Ward) Irene Machin (Ingleby Barwick Community Centre) Geoffrey Green (Thornaby Town Council) Doug Nicholson (Friends of Tees Heritage Park) Tom Bowman (Ingleby Barwick Town Council)

#### **Advisors/ Observers:**

Elizabeth Benomran (North Tees Primary Care Trust) Beryl Robinson (resident) Shirley Stenburge (Stockton Council).

ITEM/ISSUE	DOI	COMMENTS/ DECISION	ACTION	Does it need Council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?	Are any other boards affected?	CONTACT
1. Welcome and Introductions						
Members were introduced and welcomed to the Eastern Area Partnership.		No	No	No	No	Nicola Hall EAPB Coordinator (01642) 527823
2. Apologies						
Apologies were noted.		Noted	No	No	No	Nicola Hall EAPB Coordinator (01642) 527823
3. Declaration of Interest						
Graeme Oram ( <b>GO</b> ) and Diane Patterson ( <b>DP</b> ) declared an interest in agenda item 9.		Noted	No	No	No	Nicola Hall EAPB Coordinator (01642) 527823

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4. Minutes of Last Meeting						
Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 February 2009 were agreed as a true record.		Minutes agreed as a true record.	No	No	No	Nicola Hall EAPB Coordinator
Post Meeting Note Amendment to page 12 of the 24 February 2009 minutes:		Noted	NH to amend minutes.	No	No	(01642) 527823
First paragraph should read 'NK explained that a proposal is being put forward to Cabinet to create a pedestrian crossing across Allensway (near Asda and the Dentist) and if approved this would be implemented during 2009/10 budget cycle'						
5. Matters Arising						
Youth Services and Youth Provision Review  Andy Whinnerah (AW) explained that to date 50 responses had been received to the Youth Services and Youth Provision Review questionnaire. AW stated the questionnaire responses were currently being analysed.		Noted	No	No	No	Graeme Oram, Chair (01642) 608316

### **APPROVED BY EAPB ON 28 APRIL 2009**

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Myplace						
AW explained that Stockton had been successful in its bid to the Myplace programme and had been awarded £4,995,250 to create a new youth facility in Stockton's Tilery area.		Noted	No	No	No	
GO commented that Myplace was a fantastic result for the Borough.						
6. Cardboard and Plastic Recycling						
Victoria Welsh ( <b>VW</b> ) provided the Partnership with information on the Council's Cardboard and Plastic Recycling scheme.		Noted	No	No	No	Victoria Welsh, SBC (01642) 527184
VW stated that she wanted to ensure that the right messages were being sent out to residents and also wanted to quash any rumours about the scheme.		Noted	No	No	No	327104
VW explained that the scheme had been undertaken through a phased approach and all residents would be provided with a white hessian bag and also an information leaflet explained what they can and can not recycle and also when the recycling would be collected.		Noted	No	No	No	

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VW informed members that the Council employed 2 Waste Support Officers to tackle issues such as recycling within communal areas.		Noted	No	No	No	
VW clarified that residents could request more then one white hessian bag; however the numbers given out would be within reason.		Noted	No	No	No	
VW stated that the Council would no longer be providing communal skips. VW stated that if residents wanted to remove any bulky waste items, Care For Your Area would take up to six items for a charge of £10. VW also explained that bulky waste could also be disposed of at the Haverton Hill recycling site. A discussion took place on the charges for collecting bulky waste and comment was made that it would lead to a rise in fly tipping. VW clarified that the charge for collection had been in place for a number of years, therefore residents should be aware of this. VW also clarified that the Environment Agency were responsible for doing spot checks for fly tipping.		Noted	No	No	No	
VW circulated information leaflets on the scheme and requested that members distribute this information to their groups.		Noted	No	No	No	

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A query was raised regarding a clothes recycling bin on Thornaby Road. VW explained that the recycling bin was the responsibility of the land owner.		Noted	No	No	No	
A query was raised regarding if the cardboard and plastic would be collected if it was wet. VW explained that water was not an issue and also residents do not have to wash or take the labels off any items that are to be recycled, however it is appreciated if residents are able to do that. VW clarified that the plastic bottle tops can also be recycled.		Noted	No	No	No	
VW clarified that the collection crews would try to ensure that the white and blue bags are put back securely, however they can not control the weather.		Noted	No	No	No	
A query was raised regarding the way in which the recycling items and placed in the same lorry as the general waste. VW explained that the contractors have the facility to be able to sort the recycling from the general waste on site.		Noted	No	No	No	
VW explained that the Council also worked very closely with local schools to educate young people on recycling.		Noted	No	No	No	

### **APPROVED BY EAPB ON 28 APRIL 2009**

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GO asked if VW would be able to provide a breakdown of the recycling rates at a ward level. VW stated that she would have to look to see if this information was available and would let NH know. ( <i>Post Meeting Note</i> : VW emailed NH on 6 April 2009 to explain that information on the breakdown of individual recycling tonnages for the individual wards is not available for public viewing, as the accuracy of the data cannot be guaranteed).		Noted	No	No	No	
7. Sustainable Communities Act  Simon Lee (SL) gave a presentation on the Sustainable Communities Act. SL explained that the Act encourages people to identify what is needed locally to make communities more sustainable and what needs to change nationally to make it happen		Noted	No	No	No	Simon Lee, SBC (01642) 524581
SL stated that the Act defines sustainability as covering social, economic and environmental issues, therefore it really covers anything.		Noted	No	No	No	
SL explained how the Act would work and gave examples of proposals including supporting local pubs; supporting local housing and supporting local energy generation. SL informed members that at the other Area Partnerships, suggestions had been made that issues		Noted	No	No	No	

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such as planning and rural transport should be considered as a proposal.						
SL invited comments and suggestions from the Partnership. A discussion took place and issues such as a central entertainment venue and second homes were suggested. Comment was made that a proposal should be considered around dispersal orders.		Noted	No	No	No	
A discussion took place around the Tristar Neasham site in Thornaby Town Centre and how long the legal process has been to ensure that the site is made good. GO suggested that a proposal could be put forward that would allow the process to be sped up and give the Council more freedom than the current legislation allows to redevelop derelict land for community use.		Noted	No	No	No	
Comment was made that the Council should be pushing for this information anyway and it should not be in the onus of the local community to come forward with suggestions. SL explained that the Council welcomed the opportunity to be able to influence and enhance current laws and wanted to put forward suggestions that had the support of the community. SL also explained that Cllr Suzanne Fletcher was a sub member on a national joint member panel that would consider the		Noted	No	No	No	

### **APPROVED BY EAPB ON 28 APRIL 2009**

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proposals put forward by Councils.						
SL clarified that the Sustainable Communities Act unfortunately did not come with any funding.		Noted	No	No	No	
GO suggested that a proposal should be considered around public transport and giving Local Authorities more power to regulate the service.		Noted	No	No	No	
SL clarified that the timescale for submitting proposals was by July 2009 and the Local Government Association would consider any proposals and realistically any proposals would take years rather than months to implement. SL clarified that assurance had been given that this will be an ongoing process.		Noted	No	No	No	
SL advised that following consultation, a report would be submitted to the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT). SL stated that he would come back to a future meeting with an update on the Sustainability Act.		Noted	No	No	No	
8. Housing Futures						
Chris Davey (CD) introduced himself and Neil O'Brien (NO). CD explained that the NB worked for Engage Associates, a company that has been appointed by the Housing Futures Tenant Group to provide independent		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	Chris Davey, SBC (01642) 526776

### **APPROVED BY EAPB ON 28 APRIL 2009**

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financial advice.						<b>D</b> 0
CD explained that in August 2007, Stockton Council's Cabinet gave approval to undertake a comprehensive option appraisal of the Councils housing stock. CD explained that the purpose of the appraisal was to consider how best to secure future investment needs. CD stated that to keep the current level of housing stock it would part \$6000 million pares 20 years.		Noted	No	No	Yes – All	Bev Cross, SBC (01642) 526074 Neil O'Brien,
it would cost £600 million across 30 years.  CD explained that a Housing Future Customer Group had been established by volunteers from resident associations and the membership of this group has increased through raising awareness of the group in newsletters.		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	Engage Associates (01429 232716)
<ul> <li>CD outlined the options that were presented to Cabinet –</li> <li>a) 'Staying as we are' (no change)</li> <li>b) Stock retention outside of the current housing subsidy system. A comprehensive review of the way Councils are funded is currently ongoing, it is anticipated that more information will be available on this later in the spring of this year. From this, it will be determined if this offers the Council a viable option.</li> </ul>		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	

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<ul> <li>c) Stock transfer: the transfer of ownership and management of the housing stock to a newly created or existing Registered Social Landlord (also know as Housing Association).</li> <li>d) Private Finance Initiative – only suitable for smaller regeneration schemes</li> </ul>						
CD explained that a further report was submitted to the Council's Cabinet in November 2008. CD stated that at this meeting, the Council's Cabinet agreed that stock transfer to a new or existing housing organisation (also know as a Housing Association) was the only viable way forward at this time, in order to secure future investment into the housing stock and meet tenant needs and aspirations. CD explained that it was also noted that further details from the Council funding review should also be considered. CD stated that a letter was posted out to all council tenants in December 2008 to advise them of this decision.		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	
CD advised that the next step was that the type of landlord needed to be agreed. CD outlined the types of landlords as: stand alone or a group structure (for example Fabrick). CD explained that a Joint Reference Group, along with ward Councillors and Trade Unions were looking at what landlord would be right for		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	

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Stockton.						
CD explained a report would be submitted to Cabinet in September 2009, which would identify the type of landlord and also provide more detail on the funding review. DC explained that at this meeting, Cabinet would be making a final decision on the future of the Council's Housing Stock.		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	
CD explained that if the stock transfer is the chosen option then the process of working with tenants to develop the Offer Document will start. CD stated that this is the document which tenants will be issued before they are asked to vote. CD explained that the Offer Document would detail the services tenants would receive if they wanted in favour of stock transfer and if not and vote to remain with the Council.		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	
NO explained his role and stated that he was trying to attend as many resident association meetings as possible to provide support to tenants. CD explained that a pocket guide and helpline had been set up to respond to any queries tenants had.		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	
A query was raised regarding if this would lead to a rent increase. CD explained that all rent should be worked		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	

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out using the same model and rents traditionally increase year on year. CD responded to a query regarding housing benefit and explained that housing benefit would reflect the rent people paid.						
A query was raised regarding if it was more beneficial for the local area if the stock was transferred to a local organisation or a national organisation. NO explained that as part of the 10 objectives of stock transfer that local management money stays within an area. NO explained that the stock transfer needs to be beneficial for the tenants and the Council.		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	
NO explained that the difference between a local and national organisation is that a national organisation have a proven track record and are in a better position when applying for funding from the banks. NO explained that national companies can usually borrow money at a better rate. NO stated that there are advantages and disadvantages against going with a local and a national organisation and it was a process of weighing up the benefits. NO gave the example of the Fabrick housing group, explaining that this was formed out of a local organisation merging with a national organisation and thus had the benefits of both options.		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	

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NB explained that residents would need to ask some difficult questions when considering the type of landlord and explained that a new organisation would need to appoint a Chief Executive, Finance Director, legal team, IT team, HR team etc, which could be costly, however if a partnership approach is used then these costs could be shared. NO explained that all of these issues had been discussed at the Options meeting and the role of tenants was to influence the process.		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	
A discussion took place regarding if this could be an option for the Sustainable Communities Act, to allow local communities to take ownership of parts of an area and a local organisation could be the landlord for that area. GO explained that the Five Lamps had considered proposing a similar model for the Mandale redevelopment scheme. GO stated that a scheme like this would link to issues such as jobs, family, youth services and was essentially a neighbourhood management/ community type model.		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	
NO explained that a similar model had been successful adopted in Preston called 'Corn Gateway' and over a period of time parts of the stock had been transferred to the local community via a holding company.		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	

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Comment was made that this was the first time that this information had been presented to residents. NO explained that Tristar were in a difficult position as they potentially could be the new landlord, but also had to carry on with the day job of being the current landlord.		Noted	No	No	Yes - All	
9. Eastern Area Partnership Projects Update						
Kelly Smith ( <b>KS</b> ) provided an overview of the submitted report and explained that the Partnership has been given an allocation of £114,359 for the period 2008/11 to address their priority areas. KS explained that the Partnership had initially allocated £29,998 towards two projects and both projects had provided an update on progress to date at the last Partnership meeting in March 2009.		Noted	No	No	No No	Kelly Smith, SBC (01642) 526032 Nicola Hall EAPB Coordinator (01642)
KS explained that the Partnership can allocate up to £14,999 additional to each project and this figure was based on the maximum the Partnership can fund a project, without having to go through another detailed procurement process.						527823
KS stated that the Sub Group had looked at the applications to extend both projects and recommend that the Partnership continues to fund the REACT project until January 2010 and the Debt Advice and Support		Members endorsed the continuation of both projects.	The Partnership continues to fund the REACT project until	No	No	

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project until March 2010.  KS informed members that the Partnership has a remaining allocation of £54,363 to commission additional projects during the period 2009/11.  10. Membership			January 2010 and the Debt Advice and Support project until March 2010.			
Tracy Roberts ( <b>TR</b> ) explained that as Doug Nicholson ( <b>DN</b> ) had been a member of the Eastern Area Partnership for 2 years representing the voluntary and community sector, he was required to step down. TR explained that she had wrote out to the voluntary and community sector advising them of the vacant space on the Partnership, and one nomination had been received from Doug Nicholson.		Noted	DN to be a member of the Partnership for a further two year period.	No	No	Tracy Roberts, SRCGA (01642) 733903 Nicola Hall EAPB Coordinator
The Partnership endorsed Doug Nicholson's membership of the Partnership for a further two year period.		Noted		No	No	(01642) 527823
Nicola Hall ( <b>NH</b> ) explained that as Geoff Green had been a member of the Partnership for 2 years representing Thornaby Town Council, he was requested to step down. NH explained that she had written to Thornaby Town Council requesting a representative and this would be discussed at the Thornaby Town Council		Noted	NH to send a letter of thanks to GG.	No	No	

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AGM in May.						
11. Area Partnership Review Report						
NH provided an overview of the submitted report, explaining that the purpose of the review was to improve the community leadership role of the Area Partnerships. NH stated that the review was carries out using web based research toolkits, a questionnaire and Focus Groups of Area Partnership members.		Noted	No	No	No	Nicola Hall EAPB Coordinator (01642) 527823
NH provided feedback from the results of the questionnaire and highlighted the key areas of members felt that engagement with different sectors could be improved, particularly with the statutory and business sector, that members would like the opportunity to further influence the items on the agenda, members prefer the current meeting format, the meeting are often 'top down' and members are consulted on items they do not have any real influence or decision over, improve membership of the Area Partnerships and further delegation of budgets to the Area Partnerships.		Noted	No	No	No	
NH also provided feedback from the Focus Groups and highlighted key issues such as changing the format of minutes, more clarification if an agenda item is for information or for a decision to be made, lack of		Noted	No	No	No	

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consultation, greater representation and ensure that members give feed to their nominating body.						
NH explained that an Area Partnership Improvement Plan had been created as a result of the review and a number of actions would be implemented. NH informed members that progress on the Improvement Plan would be reported to the Partnership on a six-monthly and annual basis.		Noted	No	No	No	
Comment was made that it was disappointing that the further delegation of budgets to the Area Partnerships was not detailed in the Improvement Plan.		Noted	No	No	No	
12. Roles and Responsibilities						
Peter Brennan ( <b>PB</b> ) explained that he wanted to highlight a few points with regards to the membership of the Partnership.		Noted	No	No	No	Nicola Hall EAPB Coordinator (01642)
PB explained that members elected though Stockton Residents & Community Groups Association represented the voluntary and community sector as a whole and not just their nominating group. PB stated that members had a responsibility to spread information both ways and provide feedback on issues discussed at the Eastern Area Partnership. PB gave the example of the		Noted	No	No	No	527823

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Eastern Area dedicated transport meeting and stated that members also had a responsibility to advertise this meeting amongst their groups and residents.  A discussion took place around the induction process of members, particularly those from the voluntary and community sector. GO suggested that it would be useful if a briefing note was provided to members to use to feedback information to their groups.		Noted	NH to produce briefing sheet.	No	No	
13. Any Other Business  Area Transport Strategy Steering Group						
Peter Brennan ( <b>PB</b> ) queried the attendance at the ATS meetings. NH clarified that the meetings were by invitation only.		Noted	No	No	No	Graeme Oram, Chair (01642) 608316
Thornaby Town Centre						
Philip Day ( <b>PD</b> ) explained that disabled members of Tees Active were upset that they could not use the facilities at the Pavillion whilst the ramp was being refurbished and were not provided with a refund.		Noted	These issues to be clarified at the next meeting under the Thornaby Town	No	No	
PD also raised concern regarding that there were no public toilets in the Town Centre. It was noted that it had			Centre agenda item.			

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been made clear from the start of the redevelopment of the Town Centre that there would be no toilets to reduce issues of anti-social behaviour.						
Busting the Credit Crunch Event						
KS explained that a busting the Credit Crunch Event would be held at the Golden Eagle on Thursday 30 April 2009 at 1pm – 5.45pm and information and advice would be available from a wide range of organisation.		Noted	Members to highlight this event within their groups.	No	No	
14. External Funding Opportunities						
NH explained that this would now be a standard agenda item to highlight the information on external funding opportunities that is sent to the Partnership via email.  NH highlighted the following funding opportunities:  • Fighting Fit Finances, Catalyst (deadline 3 April 2009)		Noted	No	No	No	Nicola Hall EAPB Coordinator (01642) 527823
15. Date of Next Meeting						
The next business meeting of the EAPB will be held on:  Tuesday 28 April 2009, 9.30am at the Five Lamps		Noted	No	No	No	Nicola Hall EAPB Coordinator

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Organisation.  EAPB members are invited to forward any agenda items for future meetings to Nicola Hall.						(01642) 527823