

**ECONOMIC REGENERATION & TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES**  
**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009**

<b>Chair:</b>	Tony Campbell	Creative Glass
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Bob Cook	Stockton Borough Council
<b>Members:</b>	Richard Poundford	Stockton Borough Council
	Philip Addison	Western Area Partnership
	Chris Renahan	Stockton Borough Council
	Trevor Mortlock	Job Centre Plus
	Robin Davison	The Wolviston Group
	Lesley Cannon	Job Centre Plus
	Chris Butler	Five Lamps Organisation
	Neil Mitchell	Sustrans
	Robin Davison	Wolviston Management Group
	Neil Kenley	Tees Valley Regeneration
	Sandra Morton	Stockton Riverside College
	Doug Elphee	Stagecoach
	Mike Lakinski	Business & Enterprise North East

**Businesses/Organisations (Non Members)**

Paul Burns	The Cultural Partnership
Colin Smith	Wellington Square Shopping Centre
Simon Hanson	Federation of Small Businesses
Stuart Langstaff	Federation of Small Businesses

**Advisors/Observers:**

Graham Clingan	Stockton Borough Council
James Glancey	Stockton Borough Council
Mark Rowell	Stockton Borough Council
Iain Robinson	Stockton Borough Council
Rachael Hartley	Stockton Borough Council

**NO    ITEM COMMENTS / DECISION**

**OWNER, ACTION &**  
**TIMESCALE**

**WELCOME:**

Tony Campbell welcomed the Partnership to the meeting

**APOLOGIES**

Val Goodrum  
Cllr Maurice Perry  
Nasser Din  
David Whiting  
Andy Cattermole

## 1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

Item 3 RP informed the Partnership that SBC has submitted a bid to the Future Jobs Fund Department for Work and Pensions for funding, to create 181 jobs. Notification has now been received that the bid has passed the first stage of this assessment.

Item 5 TC asked the Partnership whether there were any amendments to the Terms of Reference that were discussed at the meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> May. There were none.

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### 2.1 **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY**

Graham Clingan presented an overview of the Green Infrastructure Strategy which was approved by Cabinet in June 2009.

2.2 CG explained that the strategy sets a vision for future development and management of the Borough's green spaces including parks, recreation grounds, trees, woodlands, rivers, streams, allotments, footpaths and nature reserves. It will contribute towards a wide range of environmental, social and economic objectives, complimenting Stockton Town Centre and the Riverside, which is one of the priority areas in the strategy.

2.3 RP commented that Saltholme Nature Reserve is an example of the Borough's natural environmental assets within a heavy industrial setting, which has attracted more visitors than expected, and demonstrates that the borough provides natural settings for people to live and work.

2.4

The strategy is available for public consultation now, and can be accessed via the Countryside and Green space web pages:  
[www.stockton.gov.uk/countrysideandgreenspace](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/countrysideandgreenspace)

2.5 Any comments on the strategy are requested by 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009, and should be emailed to:  
[countrysideandgreenspace@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:countrysideandgreenspace@stockton.gov.uk)

The Partnership were asked, if possible, to view the strategy and comment by the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

## 3. **STOCKTON TOWN CENTRE & RIVERSIDE**

3.1 Iain Robinson and James Glancey introduced the strategy for future development of the Town Centre and Riverside which had been prepared based on several previous reports and studies. An overview was provided of what had already been achieved so far; and the future priorities in the short, medium and long term; and how these would be met.

3.2 The key action plan priorities are to strengthen the existing assets and build upon the retail offer of the Town Centre. This includes the development of the heritage, culture and events programme as well as the creation of improved infrastructure and better links to the Riverside.

A discussion then followed the presentation:

3.3 RD commented that Stockton has a wealth of information regarding its industrial and engineering heritage and suggested exhibiting this in the empty retail units within the Town Centre to encourage visitors and enhance the vibrancy of the Town Centre.

3.3:RH to talk to JG & Jane Hubbard to progress suitable options for exhibitions  
Sept 09.

3.4 RP advised that the night time economy needs to be developed, and to do this we need to work closer with restaurant owners, and review public transport and parking provision to improve the offer.

3.4 RH to meet with JG to establish how we can improve links with town centre businesses.  
August 09.

3.5 RD suggested further developing the Watersports theme to provide activities such as water skiing and pedalos, water taxis and monorails from the riverside to the Town Centre.

3.5 RH to liaise with Tim Gibson, Iain Robinson & Matthew Kirk to establish, and report back on the work that has been done so far. Sept 09.

3.6 RP suggested distributing the heritage leaflet that we have to promote the historic buildings in the Town Centre, shops and units available in the Town Centre, and recommended this to be developed at the next stage of the SHiP scheme.

3.6 RH to liaise with JG & SHiP Co-ordinator to develop a suitable draft Sept 09.

3.7 RD suggested further developing the cultural quarter to create a miniature historic quay, and using the council owned buildings as capital assets to borrow against, to generate capital. NK commented that this is an excellent opportunity to integrate the river into Stockton

3.7-3.11:RH to communicate with JG,ML, RP and FSB to establish improved support and prepare information packs for developers and agents  
September 09.

3.8 ML suggested 'zoning' the Town Centre so that visitors can choose where they want to be within the centre, providing a better support for smaller businesses and a place for niche markets to develop.

3.9 RP informed the Partnership that Nasser Din is working with A4E to establish a youth incubator unit within the Town Centre, which will aim to encourage, support and assist young people into self employment through investment of a prime town centre location.

3.10 It was asked what we need to do to attract smaller businesses to the town centre?

SH suggested the following:

- Develop Stockton as a specialist town centre for niche markets the borough to encourage visitors to the town.

- Provide a competitive market-Stockton is an ideal setting to encourage niche markets, and this should be developed further.
- Offer good communication networks to businesses and retailers
- Include the businesses in the activities affecting the wider economy.

3.11 RP said that it is important that SBC work closer with the Federation of Small Business, Business Link and the Chamber of Commerce to encourage new business and improve the retail offer in the Town Centre and increase the footfall.

#### 4 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

4.1 4pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at the Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre, Moat Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 3AZ