



Stockton-Middlesbrough Initiative

SMI JOINT MEMBER MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES OF 29 SEPTEMBER 2009

Present:

Cllr Ken Lupton – SBC - Chair
Cllr David Budd – MC
Cllr Bob Cook - SBC
Cllr Charles Rooney - MC
Neil Schneider – SBC
Paul Dobson - SBC
Richard Poundford - SBC
Sean Egan - TVR
John Lowther - JSU
Jonathan Spruce - JSU
Kevin Parkes
Alan Slater – British Waterways
Les Southerton – SMI Project Director

1. Apologies:

Cllr Dick Cairns – SBC
David Allred – MC
Richard Buckley - TVR
Hilton Heslop – GONE
Paul Jackson – HACA
Ray Mallon – MC
Ian Parker – MC
Iain Robinson - SBC

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2009 were agreed. There were no matters arising.

3. PRESENTATION JONATHAN SPRUCE, TEES VALLEY JOINT STRATEGY UNIT – UPDATE ON STRATEGIC TRANSPORT ISSUES

JS presented an update on strategic transport projects in the Tees Valley referring in particular to:

- The bus network which involves a £62m investment in 20 corridors.
- The Tees Valley Metro – a £35m investment for phase one.
- The Area Action Plan – a £9m investment in the first phase which will include the East Billingham corridor and ramp metering on the A19 and A66 trunk roads.
- The Connect Tees Valley website.

RP sought confirmation that the significant expenditure proposed on strategic schemes would be linked to the supply chain and open up possibilities of local work and apprenticeships. JS confirmed that this would be done where possible including in particular involvement of the Councils' DLOs in implementation of works related to the bus network.

KL asked for greater detail on what was proposed at the junction of the A689 with the A19 and JS explained that to enable the full implantation of proposals at Wynyard some £100m of expenditure was required. It was intended that an interim scheme of circa £6m would be implemented to enable the proposed hospital development to proceed.

JS was thanked for his presentation.

4. TEES WHITE WATER COURSE

LS gave an update on the progress on the various documents associated with achieving a start on site. It was proposed that British Waterways will announce the start date at a meeting with Stockton Council and Dari Taylor MP on 7th October 2009.

LS referred to the possibility of a world ranking event on the 26th/27th September to introduce the course to world class paddlers. It was agreed that this should proceed on the basis of identifying the appropriate budget in the 2010/2011 year.

Members noted the update on the current position and look forward to hearing a firm start date following the meeting scheduled for 7 October.2009 with British Waterways.

Members agreed that confirmation should be given to the BCU that the upgraded course will host an ICF world ranking event in September 2010 and ask for a report back on the budget at the appropriate time.

5. STRATEGIC HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

LS referred to a next phase of pre construction work to be undertaken by a team led by Arup at a cost of circa £78k. The work would take some 10 weeks but could not start until there was an agreed and validated highway model in place. It was anticipated that this would be available by the end of October.

The resources of £78k would come from the Growth Point allocations available to the two local authorities.

Members agreed that the next stage of strategic highway infrastructure work commence on the basis of funding from the Growth Point Initiative Fund.

6. BARRAGE DEVELOPMENT SITE

LS referred to progress with the preferred developers for the site, Chester Group and indicated that a draft lockout agreement was under negotiation, all current site information had been passed to the developer who was also to

consider potential uses for the North Tower in his scheme. HCA is checking out the longstanding pre-emption agreement entered into by TDC. Chester Group were keen to involve the sporting proposals of the Universities of Durham and Teesside and were also talking to a developer who had submitted one of the unsuccessful schemes.

AS referred to a new initiative to try and use timber retrieved from the river as a fuel source for a power plant at Wilton.

Members noted the further progress on the development site and requested a formal presentation of an outline scheme at the appropriate time.

7. SPORTING FACILITIES, RIVER CORRIDOR

LS referred to the discussions involving the Universities of Durham and Teesside and the sports development teams of both local authorities. This has resulted in an agreed list of potential and appropriate activities for the river corridor. To try and take this work forward it was suggested that £10k of SMI resource be used to develop some initial plans, elevations and 3D images of the proposals.

Members noted progress on the development of additional sporting facilities within the river corridor and agreed to allocate £10k from the SMI budget to progress the initial concept designs and prepare a provisional budget for the project.

8. 8 BRIDGES FOOTPATH/CYCLEWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

LS referred to the previous work undertaken by Cathy Newbery which had produced a costed strategy for short, medium and long term improvements to the river corridor. In the immediate future it was unlikely that substantial resources would be available for 'green infrastructure' projects and therefore LS suggested a short term range of measures comprising better coordinated maintenance, improved signage, liaison with third party land owners and the preparation of a leaflet.

The resources to undertake this work would come from a combination of £10k from the core SMI budget supplemented by appropriate contributions from the capital programmes of each authority.

CR asked that this work be coordinated with the Right of Way Improvement Plan. BC referred to the presence of the Tees Way through the site and asked that these proposals be coordinated with this initiative. KL sought assurances related to safety implications of water activities and AS confirmed that this was the responsibility of the stewardship group.

Members approved the approach to achieving a first phase of upgrading the footpath/cycleway infrastructure in the river corridor as outlined in the report.

9. 2009/2010 BUDGET

LS indicated that the available budget to undertake projects during the current year was £64k of SMI resource to be supplemented by some £78k of Growth

Point resources. LS outlined provisional budget allocations against this available resource.

Members Approved the budget allocation for the current financial year as outlined in the report.

10. TEES YARD

LS referred to the various elements of work undertaken strategically to enable the Tees Yard site to be opened up for residential development. LS confirmed because housing development could not start until the line through the site had been re-signalled this was some way off with a potential construction start date of 2014 – 2018. To maintain the interest of the site owners the next stage of work was to put in place a Joint Area Action Plan working with the planning authorities in both Councils. A provisional budget allocation of £14k has been identified to assist this work.

Members agreed the strategy in relation to development of Tees Yard and asked that a delivery plan for the preparation of the proposed Joint Area Action Plan be brought back at the appropriate time.

11. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

LS gave an update on the work of Kay Wilson PR referring to her involvement in events such as Take to the Tees and the triathlon. It was also intended to organise an event to mark the closure of the course before its upgrade.

Members noted the report.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AS asked whether sufficient attention was being given to the Cultural Olympiad and whether this had relevance to the white water course proposals. PD outlined current progress and said that he would ensure that the white water course was included in the proposals as they developed.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

TO BE ADVISED