

ECONOMIC REGENERATION & TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JULY 2010

Chair:	Tony Campbell	Creative Glass
Members:	Richard Poundford Neil Kenley Chris Butler Bob Cook Phillip Addison Bill Overin Chris Johnson Sandra Morton Andy Hatton Rachel Powell	Stockton Borough Council Tees Valley Unlimited Five Lamps Organisation SBC Western Area Partnership Local Heroes Pub Company Yorkshire Bank Stockton Riverside College The Billingham Partnership Idelic

Advisors/Observers:

Tony Jones	One North East
Stewart Atkinson	Tees Achieve
Petrina Lynn	Skills Funding Agency
Liz Hall	Business & Enterprise North East
David Flewker	Interserve
Allan Mansfield	14-19 Team SBC
Vivian Lattimer	SBC
Rachael Hartley	Stockton Borough Council
Len Junior	Five Lamps Organisation

NO **ITEM COMMENTS / DECISION**

OWNER, ACTION & TIMESCALE

1. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTION**

Tony Campbell welcomed the Partnership and guests to the meeting and introduced the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Neil Mitchell
Doug Elphee
John Clift
Richard McGuckin
Bryan Bunn
Lesley Cannon
Mark Rowell
Maurice Perry
Judith Stothard
Mike Lakinski
Simon Scotchbrook

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared

3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th May 2010 were agreed as a true record.

4. **JOBS & SKILLS**

Tony Jones gave a presentation on the Education, Employment and Skills Priorities for 2011-2016, and Stewart Atkinson provided an overview of the Stockton Provision, current achievement levels and skill requirements.

DISCUSSION

4.2 Allan Mansfield explained that the curriculum content for 14-19 learners is being considered to accommodate both the learner and employer demand through linking the Careers Education information Advice and Guidance to the colleges, universities and employers. Achievement patterns and progression routes of post 16 learners were discussed.

4.3 Stewart Atkinson commented that low skills levels and lack of development in employees could lead to the risk of redundancy.

4.4 RP asked whether the Partnership understood the qualifications relating to skills levels. CJ said that employers have a basic understanding of the levels relating to qualifications but do tend to use GCSE and A Level grades rather than levels. AM advised that learners continue to use GCSE and A Level gradings rather than skills levels.

4.5 CB asked if skills gaps were considered when the diplomas were created? SM informed the group that the diplomas were developed due to the skills gaps and also to make learners work ready.

4.6 RP said that he was interested in providing assistance to graduates to set up their own business, helping with finance and start up skills and efficiency training.

Business Development to liaise with Rachel Powell to establish what support would be most useful. August 2010

4.7 R Powell suggested that this would be useful as well as mentoring from other businesses and support agencies would be beneficial for start-up businesses as they don't always have the skills to find work in the first instance. CB supported this comment.

4.8 NK advised that although the economy is preparing for the carbon economy, training for jobs in other sectors still needs to be focussed on and that health and public sector employment is significant in the Tees Valley

4.9 David Flewker reinforced the need for employers to train employees during this time and not cut back on staff training and suggested that 14-19 learners should be taught skills in other sectors and not just low carbon.

- 4.10 Stewart Atkinson said it is important to raise the number of apprenticeships within supply chain businesses and encourage small businesses to take on apprentices.
- 4.11 AH suggested that businesses won't take on apprentices if money is not available to help fund the scheme.
- 4.12 AH advised that he was not aware of anyone who had experience of being awarded 90% funding from Business and Enterprise North East. AH asked Liz Hall to supply examples of start up businesses receiving 90% funding from Business and Enterprise North East.

Liz Hall to provide the Partnership with documented evidence of start up businesses in Stockton receiving 90% funding. August 2010

5 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 5.1 RP informed the group that Stockton Borough was the regional winner for the Enterprising Britain competition 2010 and will now compete against the other eleven regional winners from all across the UK.

6

DATE & TIME of NEXT MEETING

4:15pm on Wednesday 15th September 2010, Room F, the Education Centre, Junction Road, Norton, TS20 1PR