

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Thursday 8th December 2005

at 9.15 am

in Committee Room B

MEMBERS: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Cook, Coward, Fleet, Hargreaves, Iseley, Johnson, Kaiser, London, A Marshall,
Rayner, Wright.

Resident Representatives:

James Atkinson, Mary Power and Iris Ryder

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2005 (*attached*)

4. **ISSUES RAISED AT NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS**

None.

5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

5.1 Sub Regional Partnerships (*Chief Executive – Tees Valley Partnership/
Director Tees Valley JSU*)

6. **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM MINUTES

4th November 2005

Present:

Councillor: Rob Cook (In the Chair)

Councillors: Mary Fleet, Bill Iseley, Frances London, Ann Marshall, Pat Rayner

Resident Representatives:

James Atkinson, Mary Power, Iris Ryder

Also Present:

John Lynch, Resident Representative

Officers:

Peter Scott, Head of Regeneration and Planning Services
Sajda Banaras, Scrutiny Support Officer
Rebecca Redman, Research Assistant - Scrutiny
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

14. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pamela Hargreaves.

15. Appointment of Chairman

In the absence of Councillors Pamela Hargreaves (Chair) and Edna Wright (Vice Chair), Councillor Rob Cook was appointed Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

16. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

17. Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2005

Confirmed.

18. Matters Arising

The Scrutiny Support Officer informed Members that contrary to the minutes, Local Area Agreements (LAAs) had not been incorporated into the scoping paper. However, it was indicated that the omission had been rectified within the project plan, which was submitted to the meeting, and LAAs will be considered by the Forum at its meeting in the 26th January 2006.

19. Sub-Regional Partnerships Scrutiny - Scoping *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a scoping report for the Forums investigation into Sub-Regional Partnerships.

- The aim of the investigation

To assess the governance arrangements surrounding Sub-Regional and Local Partnerships on which Hartlepool Borough Council was represented.

- The terms of reference for the investigation

- (a) To determine the extent of partnership working throughout the Authority.
- (b) To identify the Sub-Regional Partnership Bodies on which Hartlepool Borough Council participates and the governance arrangements established throughout those bodies.
- (c) To review the Hartlepool Partnership and consider the governance arrangements in terms of Council involvement.
- (d) To review the roles and responsibilities of Elected Members nominated to serve on the partnerships, including feedback mechanisms into Council.
- (e) To clarify the role of the Community and Voluntary sector, and to consider whether encouragement needs to be given to maintaining and strengthening with Community and Voluntary Sector organisations.
- (f) To examine best practice in other Authorities.

- Timetable Of The Scrutiny Investigation

- 4th November 2005 – Approval of the Scoping Paper and; First evidence gathering session into “Governance Arrangements and Sub-Regional Partnerships”
- Meeting of the Forum to receive a briefing note/presentation to

provide an overview of the key issues.

- 8th December 2005 – Evidence to be determined
- 26th January 2006 – Evidence to be determined
- 3rd March 2006 – Consideration of Draft Final Report
- 7th April 2006 – Consideration of Final Report by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.
- 2nd May 2006 – Consideration of Final Report by Cabinet

Decision

Members agreed the remit of the Scrutiny investigation.

19. Governance Arrangements – Sub-Regional Partnerships *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation to the Forum on the sub-regional level of partnerships. The report indicated that there were a number of partnership arrangements across the Tees Valley Area including Sub-Regional Partnerships, Local Strategic Partnerships and Themed Partnerships. Sub-Regional partnerships became more important as they were seen as a more efficient and convenient means of dealing with strategic and specialist issues across the Tees Valley area. However, the presentation focussed on the membership and remits of four of the main formal partnerships and gave an indication of the range of types of organisation:

- Tees Valley Partnership – This was the main economic regeneration partnership in the Tees Valley the aim of which was to co-ordinate a joined up approach to strategic issues for example, economic development and the allocation and monitoring of funding within the Tees Valley Programme.
- Tees Valley Joint Strategy Committee and Unit – The Committee was served by the Unit and was the formal joint body that dealt with economic development, planning and transport and considered major planning applications and strategies for the region
- Tees Valley Living – This partnership was the lead and co-ordinator for housing market renewal in the Tees Valley area and had secured £23m for Tees Valley over the next 2 years.
- Tees Valley Regeneration – This body was an urban regeneration company that focussed upon five flagship physical regeneration projects. TVR created development and investment opportunities and delivered sustainable development in the Tees Valley area. This included the

Victoria Harbour proposals in Hartlepool.

A discussion followed with the following points being raised:

Commitment was needed from Members as well as Officers – Members felt that Hartlepool Borough Council had excellent officers working on its behalf to ensure the Council was kept well informed of all activities across the Tees Valley partnerships. However, it was acknowledged that Members who represented the Council on these partnerships must ensure their commitment to securing effective partnership working for the benefit of Hartlepool.

Is there a risk of overlap across the different partnerships – The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services indicated that there were clear demarcation lines across the Tees Valley partnerships that should ensure this did not arise.

There was concerns about Hartlepool receiving it's fair-share of funding opportunities – The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services indicated that Local Area Agreements (LAAs) would give the opportunity to ensure local views were taken into account and as far as practicable, resources and decision making were delegated to the locality level, ie Hartlepool. He emphasised that Members would play a key role in ensuring the interests of Hartlepool were kept at the forefront.

In addition to the scoping paper, the Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a project plan which provided members of the Forum with a comprehensive plan for the scrutiny investigation. It was emphasised that whilst the project plan included a series of witnesses, their availability was subject to confirmation.

The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services was thanked for his very informative presentation.

Decision

Members noted the report and presentation.

ROB COOK

CHAIRMAN

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT

8th December 2005



Report of: Chief Executive – Tees Valley Partnership / Director
Tees Valley JSU

Subject: SUB REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 There are basically four arrangements which are sub-regional partnerships which affect planning and regeneration. They are:

- a) Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit and Tees Valley Joint Strategy Committee;
- b) Tees Valley Partnership;
- c) Tees Valley Regeneration; and
- d) Tees Valley Living.

1.2 I will set out the functions and governance structures of each in turn.

2.0 TEES VALLEY JOINT STRATEGY UNIT AND TEES VALLEY JOINT STRATEGY COMMITTEE

2.1 The Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit was set up in 1996 as a joint arrangement of the boroughs of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton on Tees Borough Councils to deliver:

- a) an information and forecasting service for the Boroughs;
- b) strategic planning – including the Tees Valley Structure Plan;
- c) economic development strategy – Tees Valley Vision and Tees Valley City Region Development Programme;
- d) transport planning at a sub-regional level i.e. technical support for major road schemes, lobbying for rail, Local Transport Plans;
- e) managing and implementing European Programmes.

2.2 A recent review of the JSU has added the following functions to the JSU:

- a) strategic waste management;
- b) influencing and coordinating input into the regional spatial strategy and the regional economic strategy;
- c) tourism;

- d) public transport coordination; and
 - e) lobbying from a local authority perspective regional agencies to ensure Tees Valley needs are understood and met.
- 2.3 The JSU has 60 staff and a core budget from the local authorities of £1.6 million. In addition it generates £1.3 million through project work from external sources.
- 2.4 At an officer level the work of the JSU is influenced by a whole series of client groups made up of officers from the five authorities. They are:
- Chief Executives' Group
 - Chief Development Officers' Group
 - Information and Forecasting Officers' Client Group
 - Chief Engineers' Group
 - Heads of Economic Development Group
 - Chief Planning Managers' Group
- 2.5 At a member level the work of the JSU is directed by the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Committee, comprising 25 councillors, five from each authority. The annual business plan, policy reports and progress reports are received by the committee.

3.0 TEES VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

- 3.1 The Tees Valley Partnership operates under the governance arrangements of One NorthEast. Its role is to:
- a) recommend to ONE how £24 million allocated from single programme expenditure each year should be spent in the Tees Valley and then monitor its implementation;
 - b) act as a lobby for the Tees Valley in economic development issues; and
 - c) develop policy initiatives where appropriate to provide coordinated delivery.
- 3.2 The Partnership has a Board chaired by a private sector member with one vice chair, the chair of the Tees Valley Committee of the Local Government Association. Members of the Partnership Board are:
- a) the five local authorities – represented at leader/mayor level
 - b) Tees Valley Regeneration
 - c) Tees Valley Learning and Skills Council
 - d) Business Link Tees Valley
 - e) Universities of Teesside and Durham
 - f) Voluntary Sector
 - g) Area Health Authority
 - h) Cleveland Police
 - i) Tees Valley Committee of the North East Chamber of Commerce (2 reps)

- j) Job Centre Plus
- k) Government Office North East
- l) One NorthEast

The Board meets four times a year. An Executive of all the above partners meets every three weeks to approve and appraise on individual projects and to manage the programme. The Executive draws up the three year programme which is approved by the Board for submission to One NorthEast. Hartlepool BC is represented on the Board by the Mayor accompanied by the Chief Executive and on the Executive by Peter Scott or one of his staff. Ad hoc meetings of Chief Executives of the partners are called to deal with the issues. Projects under £250,000 have to be submitted for secondary appraisal by One NorthEast.

The programme is drawn up by the Executive under guidance from One NorthEast. The final programme is approved in principle by the Board of One NorthEast.

The Partnership is staffed by a manager and two staff supplemented by staff seconded from the JSU. Stockton on Tees Borough Council acts as the employer of staff and the accountable body for finance. The Partnership staff are housed in the JSU.

4.0 TEES VALLEY LIVING

- 4.1 Closely related to the Partnership is Tees Valley Living – a partnership set up to develop the Housing Market Renewal Strategy for the Tees Valley. The governance arrangements for Tees Valley Living are under review.

5.0 TEES VALLEY REGENERATION

- 5.1 Tees Valley Regeneration is an Urban Regeneration Company funded jointly by the five Tees Valley authorities, English Partnerships and One NorthEast. Its role is to take forward the five flagship regeneration projects in the Tees Valley, of which Victoria Harbour is the key project for Hartlepool. It also is responsible for attracting inward investment to the Tees Valley. The local authorities are represented on the Board of Tees Valley Regeneration by the five Chief Executives.

6.0 HOW ARE SUB REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEEDS OF HARTLEPOOL?

- 6.1 The key points to recognise about all the four organisations above is that they are essentially strategic organisations making policy decisions or implementing projects which have an impact on the Tees Valley as a whole. They are not about developing local policy or local projects. For example, the Tees Valley Partnership is concerned with funding projects which will make a difference not just to the development of Hartlepool but also the development of the Tees Valley and the Region. Attached is a list of projects which the Tees Valley Partnership has funded in Hartlepool. They comprise:

- a) Queens Meadow including the UK Steel Enterprise Business Centre;
 - b) the development at Hartlepool College of Further Education of the Hartlepool Centre of Excellence for Health, and the Centre for Offshore High Value Engineering;
 - c) the development of tourism through the Coastal Arc concept and the development of Victoria Harbour;
 - f) ICT infrastructure.
- 6.2 In the near future we hope to provide gap funding for the River Green Business Centre at Queens Meadow, funding for the Coastal Arc and Tees Valley Regeneration work at Victoria Harbour and the Broughton Enterprise Centre.
- 6.3 To illustrate how local needs feed into the programme, a good example is the UK Steel Enterprise Centre and Broughton Enterprise Centre. Hartlepool LSP together with the ODPM's Neighbourhood Renewal Unit identified the need for enterprise workshops and small business workshops in Hartlepool. The Borough Council and the Tees Valley Partnership developed the UK Steel Enterprise scheme and it was inserted in the programme as a priority.
- 6.4 It is not the job of the Partnership to deal with local needs that could properly be met by Hartlepool BC or Hartlepool LSP or other local funding streams. It is to concentrate on the big things which will make a major difference to the economy of Hartlepool.

7.0 HOW ARE SUB REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS HELD ACCOUNTABLE

- 7.1 The sub regional partnerships are held accountable through their governance structures, through your representatives on the executives and the boards. Your officers also use the various officer groups to make clear any concerns and meetings are often held to resolve these issues through debate and discussion. The table attached shows the expenditure of the Tees Valley Partnership over the last four years in Hartlepool which amounts to 50 projects covering £11 million. This does not include Tees Valley wide projects such as Business Support from which Hartlepool benefits. They are projects which are specific to Hartlepool.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The report sets out briefly the role and function of four sub-regional partnerships and how they fit together. I will be happy to answer any questions at the meeting and to clarify any points.

John Lowther
 Director of the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit
 Chief Executive of the Tees Valley Partnership