

Urban Renewal Specialist Strategic Partnership (UR SSP) Meeting Minutes

Marketing Suite, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF

3.00 pm, Tuesday, 17th November, 2009.

Present:

Cllr Ron Hignett	(RH) Chair	HBC/Member;
Steve O'Connor	(SO)	Managing Director, Stobart Ports (Visit);
Neil McGrath	(NM)	Director of Resources, Halton Housing Trust;
Julie Hall	(JH)	Partnerships Officer, Job Centre Plus;

In Attendance:

Dick Tregoa	(DT)	HBC/Strategic Director – Environment;
Derek Sutton	(DJS)	HBC/Operational Director – Major Projects Dept;
Mick Noone	(MN)	HBC/Operational Director/Transport;
Shelagh Semoff	(SS)	HBC/HSPB Partnership Co-ordinator;
Pat Audoire	(PA) Minutes	HBC/Urban Renewal SSP Co-ordinator.

Apologies:

Cllr Marie Wright	HBC/Member;
Andy Sharp	Daresbury Labs.;
Jane Trevor	Job Centre Plus;
Janitha Redmond	English Partnerships;
Claire Bunter	Environment Agency;
Claire McDade	Norton Priory Museum Trust;
Chris Koral	Partnerships Manager, NWDA;
Gary Collins	HBC/Operational Director – Economic Regeneration;
Phil Watts	HBC/Operational Director – Environment & Reg. Svcs;

				<u>Actions</u>
1.	Visit to 3MG Site	1.1	Delegates were taken on a very interesting visit around the newly developed Stobart Ports site, viewing the new 'Customer No.1' facility; Stobarts' day-to-day fleet and rail operations and then received a presentation from Steve O'Connor, Managing Director, Stobart Ports, around the work of the group in Widnes.	
		1.2	The Chair conveyed his great appreciation to SO for allowing such a visit and for his time and attention to the group.	
1.	Apologies, Minutes & Matters Arising	1.1	When delegates reconvened at the Municipal Building, introductions around the table were taken, after which the Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.	
		1.2	Apologies were noted. Given the interesting visit to Stobarts, it was disappointing that more members were not available to attend.	
		1.3	There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting	

			of 21 st April, 2009, which were accepted as a true record, with the exception of agenda item 8.1, requiring an electronic update with regard to LSP activities at that time to be issued to partners. This was not forthcoming and SS will pass the acknowledgement of that oversight back to the officer involved.	SS
3.	Presentation: Halton Housing Trust's (HHT) Neighbourhood Investment Framework (NIF) - from Neil McGrath	3.1 3.2 3.3.1 3.3.2 3.3.3 3.4	<p>NM gave a very informative presentation identifying the progress made to date on the Decent Homes Standard (DHS) agenda and future investment plans for HHT.</p> <p>With the government's DHS target date set for December 2010, HHT's target was set at March 2011. However, after a slow start, HHT's programme was accelerated last summer with a revised target of December this year, which is likely to be met, with just a mopping up exercise to follow in the new year. This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 3,978 kitchens renewed (against target of 4,000); – 3,322 bathrooms renewed (against target of 1,900); – 2,667 boilers replaced (against target of nil); – 1,311 central heating installations; – 5,002 electric upgrades; – 4,221 homes insulated; – All double glazing renewed; – All external works requirements completed. <p>NIF will incorporate an Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP), development of new homes as well as ongoing major works and will include added value items and opportunities for growth.</p> <p>The NIF programme will see £262m of investment to December 2015 with its main thrust being support and improvement of existing communities; support for housing choice and business diversification, access, mixed communities, affordability and value for money.</p> <p>This has involved the restructuring of the senior HHT team, an update of stock condition information, exploration of procurement options and with EIP as a priority.</p> <p>EIP will incorporate development of the 'Halton Standard', consultation work with Groundwork, Neighbourhood Action Plans, a Sustainability Toolkit; appointment of Project Manager; agreement re. initial priority areas, discussions with HBC and a communications plan.</p>	
4.	Environment Sub-Group Report from Mick Noone	4.1.1 4.1.2 4.2 4.3	<p>MN gave a fulsome review of the recent Environment sub-group, <u>minutes of which are attached as Appendix 1 to these Minutes.</u></p> <p>It has come to light that delegates from the LSP may wish to join the group and this will be facilitated.</p> <p>Because of the heavy workload of the group, it has been decided to operate 6 meetings per annum instead of 4.</p> <p>With regard to NI 5, SS confirmed that the telephone survey was cancelled this year, to be replaced with a dynamic Mori consultation exercise aimed at drilling down to data on file. SS offered to send a presentation for partners of the Environment</p>	PA SS

			subgroup.	
5.	Urban Renewal update – Dick Tregoe	5.1	DT referred everyone to the newly issued Regeneration Statement, detailing the work of the HBC Major Projects Department and showing areas of development around the borough that have either recently been completed, are ongoing or are planned, together with maps of Widnes and Runcorn (inside front/back covers) with development sites noted.	
		5.2.1	DT reported on the progress at Daresbury SIC, which is now moving on apace. They are considering the establishment of a joint venture with the private sector, to which end expressions of interest have been received by five companies, with the ultimate aim of an agreement being in place by the end of this financial year.	
		5.2.2	The Vanguard House construction proposal is also underway.	
		5.2.3	There is a meeting with developers in the next couple of weeks to consider the development of land on the other side of the Bridgewater Canal, and	
		5.2.4	Steady progress is being made on the Hartree and Detector Science building.	
		5.3	St. Michael's Golf Course is progressing, despite obstacles. Grant support of over £2m has finally been confirmed by DEFRA to support the 2-year programme of remediation, but DEFRA will not support the layout of a new course. Developers have recently started on site.	
		5.4	With regard to the Mersey Gateway, the public enquiry has opened and closed and feedback has been positive. Everyone involved is confident of a good response and the Report is due to be completed imminently. The government will then consider this and an announcement will be made in the new year (barring elections).	
6.	LSP update – Shelagh Semoff	6.1	SS gave full feedback from the last HSPB meeting and a review of the Agenda for the HSPB meeting of 18/11/09	
		6.2.1	The pertinent points for the UR SSP are that	
		6.2.2.1	– LPSA2 grant (HBC reward funding) to the value of £1.6m has been made available for commissioning projects.	
		6.2.2.2	– UR SSP has gained approval for £160,000 of this money against the Managed Workspace proposal previously submitted for support.	
		6.2.2.3	– However, new proposals are sought (and 2 proposals have been worked up: see Agenda Item 8a and 8b); there is no time constraint re. accessing/using this funding and proposals will be reviewed at the January 2010 Chairs' Meeting.	
		6.2.3	– LSP delegates tasked with environmental issues will be invited to join the Environment subgroup;	
		6.2.4	– On the CAA, developments on Castlefields were removed as a Green Flag item;	
		6.2.5	– The Urban Renewal performance update was reviewed with other SSP performance reports;	

		6.2.6	– The HBC CX has asked that all SSPs take responsibility for partner finances. There was much discussion around this point and it was decided we would seek clarification.	PA
7.	UR Projects Q2 Outturn Position – Pat Audoire	7.1	PA presented a report on the Q2 outturn position for urban renewal projects supported by WNF. Whilst expenditure was slightly lower than originally profiled, no major problems are forecast or anticipated and it is expected that projects will spend to target, as in previous years.	
8.	New Proposals (2) and Widnes Waterfront update	8.1.1	PA introduced a report and commissioning proposal as Item 8 a) with regard to the Bayer site development.	ALL
		8.1.2	Delegates confirmed their support for this proposal being submitted to the HSPB for consideration for LPSA2 funding support.	
		8.2.1	PA introduced a further report and commissioning proposal as Item 8 b) with regard to the development within the proposed Canal Quarter. Partners were asked for their discretion with regard to this proposal, due to its sensitive nature.	
		8.2.2	Delegates confirmed their support for this proposal being submitted to the HSPB for consideration for LPSA2 funding support.	
		8.3	This item was for information. PA talked to a summary paper addressing a wish to vire NWDA funding from the Widnes Waterfront programme to 3MG, due to time constraints and the 'use it or lose it' notion. This has come about due to a breakdown of communication about the term of the funding. A more detailed report will be prepared by the Widnes Waterfront team and e.mailed out to partners in due course, once agreement has been reached with the NWDA to allow the virement of funding.	
9.	Any Other Business	9.1	None.	
10.	Next Meeting & Future Diary Dates	10.1	The next meeting will take place on 26 th January, 2010 at 3.00 pm in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building, Widnes.	
		10.2	Future meeting dates beyond that: 3.00 pm, Tuesday, 11 th May, 2010; 3.00 pm, Tuesday, 7 ^h September, 2010; 3.00 pm, Tuesday, 9 th November, 2010, - as per the recently issued UR SSP & Env. Subgroup 2010 Year Planner	
		10.3	Partners are asked to note the very latest date changes (even from those noted on the Agenda to the 19 Nov. meeting) and update their business diaries accordingly. Meeting dates have now been re-aligned to fit with LSP, Environment sub-group meetings and other associated meetings. The meeting closed at 5.25 pm.	

