

**Urban Renewal Specialist Strategic Partnership (UR SSP) Meeting Minutes
Conference Room 2, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF**

3.00 pm, Wednesday, 12th May, 2010.

Present:

Dick Tregua	(DT)	Chair	HBC/Strategic Director – Environment;
Julie Hall	(JH)		Partnerships Officer, Job Centre Plus;
Claire Griffiths	(CG)		Managing Director/Development, Plus Dane Group;
Janitha Redmond	(JR)		Homes & Communities Agency;
Len Naughalty	(LN)		For Pat Broster, Groundwork Merseyside;

In Attendance:

Wesley Rourke	(WR)		HBC/Operational Director – Employment, Economic Regeneration & Business Development;
Mick Noone	(MN)		HBC/Operational Director/Highways, Transport & Logistics;
Sara Munikwa	(SM)		HBC/Programme Manager, Widnes Waterfront
Debbie Houghton	(DH)		HBC/Policy Officer;
Pat Audoire	(PA)	Minutes	HBC/Urban Renewal SSP Co-ordinator;
Justine Cuerden	(JC)		HBC/Principal Officer, Castlefields Programme;
Nathan Renison	(NR)		HBC/Principal Officer, Castlefields Programme;
Steve Eccles	(SE)		HBC/Section Leader, Transport Policy;
Alan Graham	(AG)		HBC/Internal Communications Officer – Environment.

Apologies:

Cllr Ron Hignett	HBC/Member;
Claire Bunter	Environment Agency;
Claire McDade	Norton Priory.
Neil McGrath	Halton Housing Trust;
Chris Koral	NWDA;
Andy Sharp	Daresbury Labs;

				<u>Action s</u>
1.	Apologies, Minutes & Matters Arising	1.1	DT accepted apologies, including those from Cllr Hignett (RH), who usually chaired this meeting. DT explained that, in the absence of RH, a partner was required to Chair the meeting and, when no partners were forthcoming, offered to temporarily take that role.	PA
		1.2	DT went through the Minutes of the last meeting. There were no Actions. However, JR noted that 'English Partnerships' against her name should have been recorded as Homes & Communities Agency and asked that this be changed. Actioned.	

<p>2.</p>	<p>Presentation: Halton’s 3rd Local Transport Plan (LTP3) – by Steve Eccles.</p>	<p>2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5 2.6 2.7 2.8 2.9</p>	<p>SE gave an interesting review of LTP3, identifying all the issues and elements of the consultation process currently underway.</p> <p>With regard to timetabling, the consultation on Strategy will take place Summer 2010; the consultation on Implementation will run through Autumn 2010 and LTP3 will be completed by March 2011.</p> <p>DT asked how engagement with stakeholders would progress. SE explained that this would be through presentations, the work of a focus group and various stakeholder events.</p> <p>CG identified that one of the challenges must be with regard to the busways and isolated communities; how to connect people to jobs from the various housing areas in order to overcome such isolation, but was reassured that this has been identified.</p> <p>DT referred to the high use of cars and high levels of car ownership reflected in the statistics shown and asked about the comparative figures for Halton, statistics for which are much lower. Despite there being no database about this issue, it has been highlighted as a problem.</p> <p>WR noted that in Merseyside, Merseytravel were developing a model that overlays transport networks to job opportunities.</p> <p>DT referred to connectivity and noted that the Mersey Partnership had done some work to show the development of jobs in Liverpool city centre, which highlighted that many new employees were from outside that area and the consequent need to maximise access for such workers.</p> <p>JR suggested that cycling and safety need to be addressed and that a culture shift is required. Partners were asked to pass on to their contacts the opportunity of attending the first stakeholder event on the morning of Tuesday, 18th May at the Stobart Stadium.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Environment Sub-Group Progress – Mick Noone</p>	<p>3.1 3.2 3.3</p>	<p>MN reported that the Environment Sub-group, which had been developed only 18 months previously, was a well attended group, generating plenty of discussion around performance and policy issues, which generally led to long meetings.</p> <p>MN went on to review the last meeting, covering the presentation from the Environment Agency with regard to their in-house environmental monitoring systems, the various policy issues raised by partners and the NI progress report.</p>	

		3.4	MN identified that proper feedback from this group to the LSP is not being achieved, but that this is currently under review. Partners accepted and endorsed the progress report.	
4.	Urban Renewal Projects Update – Pat Audoire	4.1 4.2.1 4.2.2 4.3 4.4.1 4.4.2 4.5	PA gave a report showing progress of the urban renewal projects receiving Working Neighbourhoods Funding support through this Partnership. From an allocation of £462,720, projects had incurred an underspend of a mere £694 on what are some quite complex capital projects. In addition, the Property Purchases project had previously been granted a roll-forward of HBC Capital Priorities Funding to the value of £300,000. Due to the complex nature of the single property purchase achieved during the year, and given the importance of this project in supporting the Canal Quarter development in Runcorn, approval had been sought and granted to roll the unspent element forward once again into 2010/11. PA then reviewed the achievements of the various WNF funded projects through 2009/10, highlighting the range of activities and accomplishments over the year. DT noted that LPSA2 funding had been secured for CCTV cameras and that, on the Traveller transit site, a low number of unauthorised traveller incursions had been reported since the transit site was opened. However, a problem has recently arisen with unauthorised encampments on a private site at Daresbury, where the owner has invited travellers onto his site. Partners accepted and endorsed the progress report.	
5.	Presentation: Castlefields Update – Justine Cuerden and Nathan Renison	5.1 5.2 5.3	JC and NR gave a very interesting presentation on the developments at Castlefields, noting the vast and positive changes to housing, as well as the environment and community developments taking place, and the start on site of the new Village Square development. The images in the presentation were very telling and partners were impressed at the achievements of the programme of work, with colleagues from the RSLs and Homes & Communities Agency having been heavily involved. It was noted that the remaining deck access flats still need to be demolished but that the economic	

		5.4	<p>climate probably won't allow that in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>JR told the partnership that HCA saw Castlefields as an example of best practice but that she, too, is mindful of the national budget cuts.</p> <p>DT mentioned that the apprenticeship scheme for this regeneration programme had been very popular and highly successful.</p>	
6.	Urban Renewal Update – Dick Tregea	<p>7.1</p> <p>7.2.1</p> <p>7.2.2</p> <p>7.2.3</p> <p>7.3.1</p> <p>7.3.2</p> <p>7.3.3</p> <p>7.3.4</p> <p>7.3.5</p> <p>7.3.6</p> <p>7.4.1</p> <p>7.4.2</p> <p>7.4.3</p> <p>7.4.4</p> <p>7.4.5</p> <p>7.4.6</p>	<p>DT introduced his regular update item, highlighting that there were three main issues he wished to report this time.</p> <p>At the January meeting, the major success story was that of the Widnes Retail Park and the major outlets opening there. Despite the economic climate, the investment through this partnership and HBC had attracted inward investment by the private sector and made that development possible. Out of that, there is now pressure to provide for Runcorn.</p> <p>However, Fordgate are now in Receivership, which is further complicated by their ownership of other elements outside of the main Halton Lea retail facility, with maintenance issues being a particular problem.</p> <p>The second item is that 3MG's 'Customer No. 1' has now been formally announced as Tesco.</p> <p>This development will provide 600 to 700 good, quality jobs from July and the Halton Employment Partnership is managing recruitment.</p> <p>6,000 people have registered their interest. 55 jobs have either been filled or appointments confirmed.</p> <p>In addition, 100 qualified appointments (all local) will be made, subject to drugs and alcohol testing.</p> <p>Stobarts have a marketing day next week and further development phases will follow.</p> <p>Finally, with regard to Daresbury, WR is working to establish a Joint Venture company to take the latest Daresbury expansion forward.</p> <p>HBC, SCFC, the Development Agency and private sector partners will develop a funding pot to bring on the development phases.</p> <p>A decision on the developer appraisals will be made in July.</p> <p>Vanguard House is coming out of the ground, all funded through the NWDA and £65m of support will fund a further 2 gateway projects.</p> <p>As there is likely to be no other public sector funding, Daresbury could otherwise have fallen into</p>	

			<p>decline if the proposed JV were not being progressed. There will be a number of caveats built into agreements, in order to ensure the development provides specifically <u>what</u> is required and <u>when</u>.</p>	
7.	<p>Widnes Waterfront NWDA Performance Plan 2010/11 – Sara Munikwa</p>	<p>8.1 8.2 8.3</p>	<p>SM had brought the Widnes Waterfront Performance Plan before this partnership, to gain its support as a requirement of NWDA funding support. SM reviewed the various elements of progress achieved to date, together with work in hand and financial profiling. SM noted that this is the fifth and final year of NWDA support and the final year of WNF support. IT SHOULD BE NOTED that, acting as Widnes Waterfront EDZ Management Board, the Partnership recommended the approval of the 2010/11 Performance Plan to the NWDA.</p>	
8.	<p>Membership</p>	<p>8.1 8.2</p>	<p>PA tabled papers regarding the Membership of the Partnership in order that colleagues could review these and suggest other delegates who could be invited to attend. However, in light of the recent changes of elected members, the likely cabinet re-shuffle and the upcoming renewal of the Community Strategy where other changes could be determined, it was suggested to defer this item to a later meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p>	<p>9.1.1</p>	<p>None.</p>	
10.	<p>Next Meeting & Future Diary Dates</p>	<p>10.1 10.2</p>	<p>The next meeting will take place at 3.00 pm, Tuesday, 7th September, 2010 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building, Widnes. Future meeting dates beyond that: 3.00 pm, Tuesday, 9th November, 2010, - as per the UR SSP & Env. Subgroup 2010 Year Planner and then <u>provisionally</u>: 3.00 pm, Tuesday, 18th January, 2011 Tuesday, 19th April, 2011 Tuesday, 19th July, 2011 and Tuesday, 18th October, 2011. The meeting closed at 5.05 pm.</p>	

