

Environment and Regeneration (E&R SSP) Meeting Minutes

Bridgewater Room, Municipal Building, Widnes

1st November 2011

Present:

Cllr Ron Hignett (Chair) (RH)		Halton Borough Council
Claire Bunter	(CB)	Environment Agency
Ian Boyd	(IB)	Halton Borough Council
Eleanor Carter	(EC)	Halton Borough Council
Hazel Coen	(HC)	Halton Borough Council
Steve Doore	(SD)	Halton Borough Council
Sally McDonald	(SM)	Halton Borough Council
Mick Noone	(MN)	Halton Borough Council
Tracey Rimmer	(TR)	Environment Agency
Rebecca Taylor	(RT)	Halton Borough Council
Jimmy Unsworth	(JU)	Halton Borough Council

Apologies

Alan Graham	(AG)	Halton Borough Council
Claire Griffiths	(CG)	PlusDane Housing
Debbie Houghton	(DH)	Halton Borough Council
Allison Kirk	(AK)	Norton Priory Museum
Karen Wickstead	(KW)	Cheshire Constabulary
Jim Yates	(JY)	Halton Borough Council

				<u>Actions</u>
1.	Apologies, Minutes & Matters Arising	1.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record.	
		1.2	There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.	
2.	Regional Growth Fund Update	2.1	The group were given a brief overview of the drive behind the 3MG initiative, to bring freight onto rail and off the road. Since the masterplan was adopted in 2004, around £100m has been spent with a further £100m committed. In all, around 5000 jobs will be created and the two main developments at the moment Prologis and Stobart will create around 1500 each.	
		2.2	In January 2011, a bid for £9m financial support from the Regional Growth Fund was submitted, and this was approved in July 2011. This will be comprised of two separate £4.5m grants and whilst Halton Borough Council is the applicant, the funder	

	Mersey Gateway Project update:	2.3	<p>(BIS) will deal directly with Prologis and Stobart respectively. Offer letters will be signed in November 2011 and work on site will begin from January 2012. Issues re timing of spend are still being resolved.</p> <p>The group were updated on the progress of the Mersey Gateway project and changes being made to the original designs in terms of road tolling, Halton Lea slip roads and bridge design e.g. type and location of cable stays. Following on from the consultation in October 2011, many more staff will be drawn into working on the project. A question was raised about proposed toll levels and although these will not be confirmed until about 2013, revenue is anticipated to be about £50m per year, with about £4m set aside for discounts/public transport etc.</p>	
3.	Local Sustainable Transport Fund Update	3.1	<p>The Local Sustainable Transport Fund is a government initiative intended to assist with economic growth whilst reducing carbon emissions. Halton Borough Council will be applying for £5m and are currently in consultation with stakeholders to ensure both a successful bid and successful delivery of the bid. .</p>	HBC/JY
4.	Environmental Update (inc Solar PV)	3.2	<p>An Employee Transport/Travel to Work survey is running across Halton between the end of October and the 30th November and group members were asked to publicise this as widely as possible. The source and amount of match funding is currently under discussion</p>	
		4.1	<p>The group were informed that JY has been working on securing a contract to install solar panels on a dozen council buildings, which aimed to deliver substantial carbon and financial savings. A change in Government policy was announced on 31st October which has brought forward the timescales for installation and registration. As a consequence, the Council is now looking at a smaller number of installations.</p>	
		4.2	<p>CB asked that the amount of carbon saving that was due to be made, that now won't be made be calculated and sent to her. This was agreed.</p>	

5.	Community Engagement Strategy	5.1	The Community Engagement Strategy (CES) is designed to provide a framework for sharing information about engagement activities, including consultations. It was adopted by the Halton Strategic Partnership Board in June 2011 and a delivery group has been created to ensure that the CES has a positive tangible impact.	
		5.2	It was agreed that EC would circulate the document to the group.	EC
		5.3	It was agreed that SD would let the Environment Agency have login access to the consultation finder so that EA documentation could be uploaded	SD
6.	Resource Mapping Exercise/Work Programme	6.1	EC gave the group a brief update on a resource mapping exercise that has been taking place in three of the other SSP groups. Based on a model adopted by Manchester councils, the SSP groups have identified issues that are key to and that impact on all of them (e.g anti-social behaviour) and identified the resources that partners around the table spend on solving these issues.	
		6.2	The process of resource identification has highlighted duplication of activity and opportunities for closer partner working. It is anticipated that this mapping will take place in the Environment and Regeneration SSP group over the next few months but further details will be circulated as timescales are firmed up.	
		6.3	EC thanked the group for the work programmes that have been forwarded. These will be amalgamated and circulated to form a draft work programme for the group for the next 12 to 18 months	EC
7.	Performance Indicators	7.1	HC gave the group an update on Performance Indicators and it was noted that whilst in the past measures had been imposed by central Government; it was now possible for Councils and partnerships to choose their own. Discussions have taken place within Halton Borough Council and comments as to what should be included were now being requested from the partnership.	All

		7.2	It was agreed that NI 186 be taken out and a discussion ensued around the difficulties of accurately reporting Air Quality at this time, and the long standing challenges around reporting contaminated land targets.	
		7.3	It was agreed that the Environment Agency forward details of how flood/coastal erosion data is captured	TR
8.	Any Other Business	8.1	A role description for the group was circulated and agreed.	
9.	Date of next and future meetings	9.1	As dates of the group need to fit in with the wider partnership board meeting matrix, future dates will be confirmed shortly.	EC