

## Urban Renewal Specialist Strategic Partnership (UR SSP) Meeting Minutes

Norton Priory, Tudor Road, Manor Park, Runcorn WA7 1SX

3.00 pm, Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.

### Present:

|                   |            |                                |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Cllr Ron Hignett  | (RH) Chair | HBC/Member;                    |
| Cllr Marie Wright | (MW)       | HBC/Member;                    |
| Lynn Smith        | (LS)       | Norton Priory Museum Trust;    |
| Chris Koral       | (CK)       | North West Development Agency; |
| Janitha Redmond   | (JR)       | English Partnerships           |
| Jane Trevor       | (JT)       | Job Centre Plus;               |

### In Attendance:

|                 |              |   |
|-----------------|--------------|---|
| Derek Sutton    | (DJS)        | HBC/Operational Director – Major Projects Dept; |
| Mick Noone      | (MN)         | HBC/Operational Director/Transport;             |
| Sue Davies      | (SD)         | HBC/Culture Services Manager/Culture & Leisure; |
| Alasdair Cross  | (AC)         | HBC/Senior Planner/Planning Dept;               |
| Debbie Houghton | (DH)         | HBC/Policy Officer/Policy & Performance;        |
| Pat Audoire     | (PA) Minutes | HBC/Urban Renewal SSP Co-ordinator              |

### Apologies:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Sasha Deepwell | PLUS Dane Housing Group;                            |
| Andy Sharp     | Daresbury Labs.,                                    |
| Claire Bunter  | Environment Agency;                                 |
| Dick Tregea    | HBC/Strategic Director - Environment                |
| Phil Watts     | HBC/Operational Director – Environment & Reg. Svcs; |
| Gary Collins   | HBC/Operational Director – Economic Regeneration.   |

|    |   |            |  | <b><u>Action<br/>s</u></b> |
|----|---|------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1. | <b>Apologies, Minutes &amp; Matters Arising</b>                   | 1.1<br>1.2 | Apologies had been received from Sasha Deepwell, Andy Sharp, Dick Tregea and Phil Watts. The Minutes of the meeting of 22 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2008 were accepted as a true record.   |                            |
| 2. | <b>Declaration of Interest</b>                                    | 2.1        | None.  |                            |
| 3. | <b>Presentation: Growth Points – Alasdair Cross, HBC/Planning</b> | 3.1        | AC attended to give a presentation on Growth Points. This included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• key housing issues as outlined in the Housing Green Paper (July 2007);</li> <li>• A summary of growth points nationally and regionally;</li> <li>• An overview of the mid-Mersey (Halton, St. Helens &amp; Warrington) housing and employment issues;</li> </ul> |                            |

|           |  |      |   |  |
|-----------|--|------|---|--|
|           |  |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership working;</li> <li>The Mid-Mersey Partnership vision and objectives;</li> <li>the programme has now been submitted and a response is anticipated in December 2008.</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Public Art Action Plan – Sue Davies</b>   | 4.1  | SD and colleagues have been working with Beam.  |  |
|           |  | 4.2  | A number of specific projects have already been suggested, including the new Mersey Gateway bridge: only the budget is now missing.   |  |
|           |  | 4.3  | A half-post will need to be created for two years (to sit with Planning) and the Arts Council will fund this.   |  |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Urban Renewal Update – Derek Sutton</b>   | 5.1  | The Halton in the Regions update was circulated. This gave a concise summary of developments in the Region and will be sent out to partners on a regular basis in the future.   |  |
|           |  | 5.2  | The Regeneration Statement Autumn 2008 was circulated.  |  |
|           |  | 5.3. | The pace of development is now slowing as the impact of the current economic situation is felt.   |  |
|           |  | 5.4  | Eddarbridge has now been purchased by Stobart's. This coupled with the Tessengerlo site is intended to become, in part, a large chilled food warehouse for a new customer being attracted to the borough and this is hopefully due to complete by October 2009. This specific development will create almost 1,000 jobs.  |  |
|           |  | 5.5  | The Windmill Centre redevelopment is due to complete by Christmas 2009 and will offer a variety of high street shops which have not previously been attracted to Widnes.  |  |
|           |  | 5.6  | JT from Job Centre Plus informed the partnership that the effects of the current financial situation are being seen in an increase in benefit claims.   |  |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Norton Priory Development Proposal - Lynn Smith, Acting Director, Norton Priory</b> | 6.1  | LS gave a potted history of the Norton Priory (NP) site, together with a summary of the Runcorn Development Corporation's excavations in the 1970s, which uncovered lots of archaeology.  |  |
|           |  | 6.2  | NP is a nationally and regionally significant ancient monument with its 12 <sup>th</sup> century Undercroft and the St. Christopher statue (previously a major London exhibit). NP are currently working with Jura Consultants to prepare a draft options appraisal prior to an HLF bid to develop a £6m redevelopment, providing a 'must see' heritage site of the 21 <sup>st</sup> century. This will include development of the main site, the walled garden and links to Halton Castle. |  |
|           |  | 6.3  | MN asked about access to the site. LS confirmed   |  |

|    |  |   |  |    |
|----|--|---|--|----|
|    |  |   | that this was an issue, but that there was no alternative and they needed to pre-warn visitor groups.  |    |
| 7. | <b>LSP Update: LAA &amp; Commissioning; Community Strategy refresh – Debbie Houghton</b> | 7.1<br>7.2<br>7.3<br>7.4<br>7.5<br>7.6<br>7.7 | DH gave a review of the issues around the Local Area Agreement (LAA) refresh and the current commissioning situation.<br>There is the potential for reward grant, but this will be challenging.<br>The refresh of the LAA was agreed in Summer 2008, when Government Office (GO) finalised some outstanding targets.<br>A draft Action Plan needs to be forwarded to GO by the end of December and quarterly performance monitoring will need to be included in this.<br>Other SSPs already have focus groups in place to monitor performance. RT will organise and lead on an urban renewal focus group to deal with performance monitoring.<br>The final draft Action Plan will need to be completed by the deadline of 16 <sup>th</sup> February, 2009.<br>PA referred to the report on the ongoing Community Strategy review, informing partners that targets will need to be updated and brought into line with the LAA. This work is currently in hand and will be shared with the partners in due course. | PA |
| 8. | <b>Members' Agenda Items</b>   | 8.1   | None.  |    |
| 9. | <b>Any Other Business</b>  | 9.1   | None.  |    |
| 10 | <b>Next Meeting</b>  | 9.  | The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> January, 2009 at the Municipal Buildings, Widnes (Marketing Suite).<br><br>Future meeting dates beyond that:<br><br>Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> April, 2009;<br>Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> July, 2009;<br>Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> November, 2009;<br>Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> January, 2010.<br><br><b>Partners are asked to update their business diaries accordingly.</b><br>The meeting closed at 4.30 pm.  |    |