

**Newcastle Partnership  
Economy Delivery Partnership**

**Meeting 2:**

**27<sup>th</sup> November 2008, 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.**

**Venue : Newcastle Partnership, Anderson House,  
Market Street, Newcastle**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Economic Climate introduced by Rob Hamilton
3. Impact on Employment introduced by Seth Pearson
4. Impact on Economy/Business introduced by Rob Hamilton
5. Update on skills Introduced by LSC
6. Updates from members

# Newcastle Partnership Economy Delivery Partnership

**Meeting** : 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008, 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

**Venue** : Newcastle Partnership, Anderson House, Market Street,  
Newcastle

## Minutes

### Present

Rob Hamilton (chair), Paul West, Barrie Irving, Phil Payne, Gillian Hewitson, Karen Marshall, John Dallinson, Andrea Smith, Dan Brophy, Sandy Ogilvie, Jo Boaden, Howard Forrest, Seth Pearson, Phil Hunter

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Rob Hamilton welcomed the group and gave apologies for Paul Rubinstein who had been unavoidably detained. Rob took the chair in his absence.

### 2. Remit

Rob explained that this was an important time for the group in light of not only the recently agreed Local Area Agreement but also the imminent changes due to the Sub National Review. This set in the context of the economic down turn as a result of the credit crunch.

The group discussed whether business could be better represented on the group. It was agreed that CBI membership would be explored.

After discussion it was agreed that private training providers were satisfactorily involved through both the 14 to 19 Strategic Partnership and the Employment sub group.

### 3. SCS/LAA targets

#### Phil Hunter

Phil explained that the Local Area Agreement had now been signed off. GONE were supportive of the priorities chosen and felt the targets were robustly evidenced, particularly those relating to the economy. Delivery Board would not only want to look at performance against target but would look to the delivery partnerships to provide commentary.

There will be a small reward grant for achievement of target which is currently under consultation. Working Neighbourhoods Fund will also have a separate reward grant.

Targets will be refreshed at the end of the first year after which targets will be locked down. For targets such as NI 106, Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education, where guidance is still being developed, a target will be established for the first time. Paul West confirmed that JC+ would support a revamp of NI 152 which relates to benefit claimant rates.

#### **4. Employability and Enterprise Action Plans implementation**

It was explained that the plans were specifically developed to deliver the Local Area Agreement targets.

Gill Hewitson was leading the Employment Delivery sub group which was overseeing the activity and performance in this area and would be reporting back to this group.

Rob Hamilton gave an update on the Enterprise Plan. Working Neighbourhood Fund had been matched against ERDF European funding. An early workshop had been held with potential providers. The four themes of the programme are to be:

- Entrepreneurial Young People
- Animation & Pre-start Support
- Start-up Support
- Growing Businesses

A question was raised about attracting new business. Rob confirmed the roles of NGI and CDC will play in this and the importance that the Economic Master Plan will have.

It was agreed that progress on regeneration activity would be brought to this group to consider the enterprise opportunities presented.

#### **5. Economic Climate**

**Rob Hamilton**

Talking to a power point presentation (attached) Rob explained that there was clear evidence of a slow down from a range of indicators including for instance number of advertised vacancies. However the economy was starting from a relatively high base.

The effect would likely impact differently on different sectors. For instance there could be a positive effect on hospitality and some manufacturing.

The City Council were initiating a range of activity including reviewing availability of debt advice and assessing the potential impact on regeneration schemes.

Jo Boaden offered to share work that BENE are undertaking to help businesses exploit opportunities from the down turn.

John Dallinson explained that the impact could already be seen in lower recruitment rates, particularly of young people.

## **6. Alcohol Strategy**

The group was invited to comment on strategy circulated and complete the consultation forms circulated.

## **7. Updates from members**

Gill Hewitson explained to the group that she had been asked to give a presentation to the Delivery Board.

NGI offered to feed into the group information on sectors.

Paul West offered to present to the group on the recent Green Paper, No One Written Off.

## **Date and time of next meeting**

Schedule to be circulated.