

**Minutes of the Multi Area Agreement Board meeting
Held on 10 February 2010 (10h00)
At the Premier Inn, Westover Road, Bournemouth**

Approved:
Signed _____
Date _____

Board Members:		
Gordon Page	Chairman - Hamworthy plc	GP
Alan Griffiths	Christchurch Borough Council	AG
Angus Campbell	Dorset County Council	AC
Brian Leverett	Borough of Poole	BL
Ray Bulpit	Southwell Business Park	RB
Richard Dimbleby	Self Employed Independent	RD
Stephen MacLoughlin	Bournemouth Borough Council	SML
Terence O'Rourke	Governor, AUCB	TO'R
Tony Bray	SWRDA	TBy
Tony Brown	Chief Exec, Beales plc	TB
Attending:		
David Luckhurst	Government Office South West	DL
Don Gobbett	Dorset County Council	DG
Jim Bright	Borough of Poole	JB
John McBride	Borough of Poole	JMB
Louise Harper (Minute Taker)	Dorset Business	LH
Matt Beaumont	Dorset Business	MB
Pam Donnellan	Bournemouth Borough Council	PD
Tony Williams	Bournemouth Borough Council	TW
Guests:		
Dr Alan Fyall	Bournemouth University	AF
Gareth Jones	Weymouth & Portland Borough Council	GJ
Sarah Ward	West Dorset District Council	SW
Tim Westwood	Dorset County Council	TW
Apologies:		
David Jenkins	Dorset County Council	DJ
Nick Petford	Vice Chair-Bournemouth University	NP
Peter Henness	Finance Director Sunseeker Int.	PH
Absent:		
John Butterworth	FJB Hotels	JB

Note:

- Multi Area Agreement will be shown as MAA throughout the minutes
- Theme Groups will be shown as TGp(s) throughout the minutes
- Programme Group will be shown as PGp throughout the minutes
- Employment and Skills Board will be shown as ESB

Item	Description	ACTION
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1. Apologies

Gordon Page wished the Board a happy belated New Year, he introduced and welcomed Dr Alan Fyall from Bournemouth University, Sarah Ward from WDDC and Gareth Jones from Weymouth & Portland Borough Council as guests to the MAA Board meeting. GP acknowledged apologies from Nick Petford, Peter Henness and David Jenkins. John Butterworth was absent from the meeting.

2. Approve minutes of last meeting 25/11/09

The minutes of the last meeting dated 02/09/09 were unanimously agreed by the Board as a true and accurate record of that meeting, and were signed off by Gordon Page.

	<u>Matters arising from meeting 25/11/09</u>	Comment:
2.1 Item4 .4	Dorset University Partnership – bid submission MB has supplied a letter of bid support to David Jenkins (26/11/09) AC advised that the Dorset University Partnership had been advised by HEFCE that the bid had been unsuccessful	Noted
2.2 Item6 .9	Housing Theme – update on negotiations with Homes and Communities Agency. Sarah Ward presenting update at Item 7 of this meeting.	Noted
2.3 Item7	Geo-economics Recommended Action Plan - October 2009 MB is progressing a review of the Programme as guided by the Board. PGp agreed project selection criteria (29/01). Currently seeking nominations for ‘first wave’ projects. Planning to complete review and have approved by all	Noted

	stakeholders by end May/June	
2.4 Item8	<p>Update required from Chair:</p> <p>a) John Butterworth resignation from Board, candidate nominations for replacement on Board.</p> <p>b) GP reported that he had been able to make recent progress in the release of the BDPEP residual funds. Grant Thornton had advised he needed approval from all the BDPEP partners approving release to Bournemouth University for the benefit of the WMAP. All attending members of the Board who also had membership of BDPEP approved that the Chair take required action on their behalf to release funds from BDPEP account. TW noted that there was urgency to confirm access to the funds to fund local authority investment to date in GKE consultation.</p>	<p>Noted GP to progress</p> <p>GP – Discussions and/or Letters of explanation and request to approve release, to be progressed</p>

3.0 Programme Managers Report

3.1 MB noted that the review of the Programme was progressing with GKE and that new project nominations would be reviewed and initial selections identified by early March. There would then be a requirement to test viability of the projects through preparation of respective project Business Cases. These would provide the final basis for selection and inclusion in to a new integrated programme. The Programme Mgt Group meeting 21/4 would consider revised content and seek approval of Board 26/05.

Action: To set up meeting for Directors, MB and JMB to review project nominations before next PMG (21/4)

LH

3.2 MB emphasised the importance of communications to the success of the partnership and clarified the difficulties currently being experienced with the shared website. (Invest in Dorset)
He recorded the need and intention to establish a stand-alone web site dedicated to the work of WMAP and the MAA. This was noted and supported by the Board.

Action: Review Communications Plan and present to PMG (21/04) and Board(26/05)

MB

3.3 MB advised the ESB establishment project needed to identify WMAP Board members willing to take on project 'task and finish' work. RD elaborated on the importance of making

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progress within the next month by identifying candidates for the ES Board, arranging governance and setting a date and agenda for the first ESB meeting.(29/04) The Board agreed to support the request. Board members identified to join a 'working group' are John McBride, Tony Brown, and Gordon Page.

- 3.4 MB reported a delegation from WMAP had met with representatives of Whitehall departments on 20/01 to build relationships and understanding of common objectives. Soon after the meeting WMAP was selected as a pilot area for Communities & Local Governments 'Local Carbon Frameworks' pilots.
TW revealed that a potential grant of 300k would accompany the pilot and commented that 'working together pays off'.

Action: Officers from BDP to visit CLG for briefing and report back (Kate Hall, Lee Green, Paul Cooling – 1st March)

- 3.5 The sub-regions bid for Future Jobs Fund grant has also been a success(525 positions) Project is to be co-ordinated with Job Centre Plus
- 3.6 MB informed the Board that a meeting between the strategic local authorities, Creative Dorset and the two universities recently took place. The groups aim is to develop joint working and advancing the creative sector under the MAA umbrella. Development proposals are to be identified by this task group meeting before Easter. The Board acknowledged and supported the meeting
- 3.7 MB revealed that CLG has asked if there is interest in attending a 'Learning event' in April, for all national MAA's to share experiences. MB urged the private sector members to consider attending the event if available. The Board noted and supported

Action: MB to advise CLG of WMAP support. Circulate meeting details once known. Board to identify 2-3 attendees

MB/LH

- 3.8 MB alerted Board to current work in Devon to establish a SW Peninsula MAA partnership (Devon CC contact is John Holman)

- 3.9 There is concern that release of critical transport funding packages (A338 maintenance/ Olympic package) is being delayed by Department for Transport. A letter seeking immediate approval/release of finances is to be sent by the Chair to Lord Adonis (Secretary for Transport)

Supported and approved

Action: MB to receive a draft letter from DCC (DG) and arrange to have it sent to Lord Ardonis under GP signature.

DG/MB

4.0 Bournemouth University Investment in the GKE- Dr Alan Fyall

- 4.1 Dr Alan Fyall from Bournemouth University (BU) gave a presentation to the Board, outlining BU's plans to invest in the Green Knowledge Economy (GKE). He explained that BU has secured funds to advance a programme of GKE linked activities that meet both internal and external needs such as breaking down 'silo' thinking in faculties, maximising international reputation and establishing Corporate Partnerships. He confirmed that links to the MAA are very important and strong. All MAA themes have links with BU programme.
- 4.2 AC requested that the programme ensure it has whole county application. AF confirmed the university strategy was sub-regional.
- 4.3 JB recognised that the University expects results from its investment and wanted a world class institution. He urged all to engage in the initiative and support the university.
- 4.4 TO encouraged not only support but also the need to work out how WMAP would engage with the university. AF noted that MB was a member of the Programme Steering Group (inaugural meeting March)
- 4.5 Board noted and fully supported the request for endorsement of the Bournemouth University initiative.

Action: To ensure identification of opportunities and taking of action linking MAA programme with BU GKE

MB

initiative.

Action: Follow up progress report to be made to Board later in year

MB**5.0 SWRDA Regional & Sub-Regional Strategy**

5.1 (TBy) highlighted the updated priorities for the Agency. He presented the priorities as the development of a low-carbon economy (focus on marine based renewables), supporting successful businesses (Business Link, iNets, and next generation broadband. TBy confirmed that 'Prosperous Places' (Bristol City, Plymouth, Cornwall) had been identified as priority areas in the region for investment. He noted that the Agency offered leadership, intelligence, expertise and was intent on getting a fair share for the region.

5.2 TBy also added that new responsibilities for SWRDA included Skills commissioning, (regional strategy lead and linked to ESB's) National Industrial strategy, Partner in HCA led 'single conversation', European Programme Mgt.

Note: the RDPE (Rural Development Programme England) is seen as one programme that Dorset could/should draw more out of.

5.3 The changes reflect funding changes, less single pot, more EU money and central Government 'strands'. Overall the strategy is one of 'consolidation and 'focus'. The Agency sees the MAA as a good model of the collective and collaborative action that is vital for the region to be effective.

TBy urged MAA focus on; a) developing key sectors (engineering/aerospace/bio-medical/creative and cultural/environmental technologies).b) Moving towards low carbon economy (renewable/cleaner technology/digital infrastructure)

TBy noted SWRDA is interested in progressing further:

- a) widening the 'Team Dorset' approach
- b) securing more RDPE funds
- c) 'Connecting SW' the digital network of LA /broadband
- d) Business support optimisation
- e) iNets

- f) Unlocking Bournemouth Airport employment land
- g) West of Isle of Wight wind-farms
- h) 'collaborative and co-operative' effort generally
 - i. Move to low carbon economy – general alignment of WMAP GKE framework with SWRDA plans
 - ii. enhanced engagement with Bournemouth University

Action: Follow up discussion with TB and then refer actions to Theme Groups and Programme Management Group

MB

6.0 West of Isle of White Wind Farm: Opportunities

- 6.1 TBy discussed the potential for economic development linked to the West of Isle of White wind farm project. The current opportunity is based on a step change in national investment in electricity generation from wind-farms. The offshore zone 7 area (west of Isle of Wight) is initially planned to generate 900MW from over 150 x 6MW turbines. Construction is expected to start in 2016. In the short term economic development opportunities are linked to port based support of turbine assembly, transfer to site, installation and building of transmission network infrastructure. Longer term opportunities could be found in supporting operations and maintenance. Portland Port is considered a good candidate for this work but will face competition from Southampton, Portsmouth and northern French ports. The selected Zone 7 developer is a Dutch integrated energy company, Eneco. Shares are held by 61 Dutch municipalities. An investment 'positioning prospectus for the sub-region (focused on Portland Port) is currently in preparation.
- 6.2 Other actions suggested to promote the sub-regions engagement include supporting Portland Port bid (with Poole Port). The MAA Board meeting Eneco representatives in late March/April. The Board proposed to add sub-regional endorsement to the investment prospectus when requested.
- 6.3 TO noted that there are a number of planning issues that need to be carefully managed as this project progresses. He urged greater debate as paramount to consider the whole issue of planning for renewable generation and network infrastructure development. He noted that the MAA within the GKE framework could take a leading role in this.

- 6.3 GP enquired as to who/what would be the necessary single point of contact with Eneco in matters impacting the sub-region. The Board acknowledged that more needed to be done to clarify how a bid might be progressed with maximum prospect of success.
- 6.4 BL suggested the Board make a press release expressing its interest in and support for the Zone 7 developments. GP supported this suggestion.
- 6.5 TBy confirmed that he would be visiting Portland in the next few weeks, and GP confirmed his interest in joining TBy.

The Board noted its support for the opportunity and expressed the wish to be kept involved in any future bid.

Action: Board Chair to attend meeting with Portland Port and SWRDA to help assess needs (mid March) GP

Action: MB to monitor progress with Gareth Jones (WPBC) MB

Action: Discuss anticipated planning issues regarding electricity distribution infrastructure with TO and then arrange for comment from /meeting with LA partner economic development and planning policy officers. MB

Action: Arrange a debriefing meeting with those attending March meeting with Portland Port - GP, TB/Johnny Gowdy(SWRDA) and Gareth Jones (WPBC) MB

7.0 Homes & Communities Agency Negotiations

- 7.1 SW explained the background to the ‘single Conversation negotiations. These are progressing to an expected approval by the Dorset Leaders and Chief Executive’s by end of March. The negotiation requires a shared sub-regional position on housing growth and regeneration investment.
- 7.2 Particular themes are affordable housing, older and vulnerable people and carbon reduction. In addition a number of ‘place shaping’ projects have to be selected by the parties to be tested for capacity and deliverability before receiving investment support. Financials have yet to be agreed but contributions

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from local authorities are being calculated.

- 7.3 The Board was alerted to the high risk of failure to meet affordable housing targets due to:
- a) The predicted reduction in HCA budgets after 2011
 - b) HCA preference for mixed use site investment over standard affordable housing grant
 - c) HCA preference to invest in strategic locations not ‘pepper-pot’ meaning windfall sites (which account for 50% of affordable sites) will be at risk. SW noted that the theme group would need to reconsider how to bring forward affordable housing without a grant.
- 7.4 (AG) thanked SW for the work completed to date and urged the local authorities to consider how they would find necessary land for housing.

8.0 Joint Traffic Control Centre

A brief review paper (Peter Speroni/Tim Westwood- DCC) of progress was tabled. A site is under investigation at Holes bay Roundabout, Poole. It was stressed that more work was needed to show the operational efficiencies that would come from a joint centre.

GP noted the Boards continuing support

12.10 Gareth Jones left the meeting

9.0 Twin Sails Bridge Development

JB advised that a contract to construct was ready to be let but a final approval from the Department for Transport was still awaited. GP confirmed readiness to send a letter to Lord Ardonis, the Transport Secretary.

10.0 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Don Gobbett will present a request that the Board approve the Chair writing to the Secretary of Transport requesting that funding be released to the sub-regional authorities responsible for the Olympic Transport package and the A338 maintenance work. It is suggested that the Department for Transport is delaying approval of these projects pending a review of all departmental spending and the election. A draft letter for the

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signature of the MAA Chair has been prepared.(see also 3.9)

- 10.2 GP advised he will attend a 'focus group' dinner hosted by BT in London on the 24th March. He urged all to encourage completion of the Team Dorset online survey relating to broadband use and needs in the sub-region.
- 10.3 SML invited the Board to attend the Bournemouth Town Centre Master plan at the Royal Bath Hotel on 24 February at 6pm.

2010 MAA Board meeting dates:

26 May 2010 (15h00- 17h00) - No 3 Committee Room DCC

08 September 2010 (15h00- 17h00) - TBA

24 November 2010 (10h00 - 12h00) - TBA

12.15pm END