

## Riverside Community Conversation – Notes Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013

### Councillors, Officers and Partners present

Cllr Bruce Pickard (Chair), Cllr Wendy Lott, Cllr Frank Lott, Bev Oakley (NTC), Mark Stephens (NTC), Neil Cole (Capita), Claire Dobinson Booth (Capita), Andrew Burnett (Capita), Stephen Harvey (Capita), Jim Grady (Nexus), Rebecca Pickham (Nexus) and 2 residents.

Cllr Bruce Pickard opened the meeting by explaining that this was a new way of listening to residents and was part of the Elected Mayors commitment to give residents opportunities to be listened to. This is particularly important due to the financial situation where the Council will have to make 64 million pounds of savings over the next few years.

### **Nexus**

Jim Grady from Nexus gave a short presentation about a consultation, urging all present to complete a short survey. In addition he gave an update on new pricing that will start in January 2014.

Q	Fishermen from North Shields have advised me that bus links from ferry to Smith Dock area the connection times are odd.
A	Service 19 links with North Shields Ferry and the 333 service however I shall make some enquiries and feed back for the notes  Additional response from Nexus following the meeting: We have had no specific problems recorded on our Nexus operated 333 service and nothing recorded from Go North East on service 19 operations. If in future problems occur the passenger should record date and time of incident and report to either Go North East customer services in relation to service 19 or Nexus customer services with regard to Service 333
Q	Will a bus service link with Royal Quays and Smith Dock?
A	Jim Grady advised he will feed back for the notes Response from Nexus following the meeting: We have no specific information as to road lay outs and plans at present.
Q	Percy Main station steps are flooding
A	Jim Grady advised he will make enquiries and feed back Response from Nexus following the meeting: We are looking at applying a bauxite anti – slip surfacing to try to regulate the ponding of water, but we may have to consider more positive drainage measures, such as weep holes and channels . This has not been budgeted for so may not be a quickly resolved.

### Rebecca Pickham Nexus

Shared information about level crossings and asked if questionnaires could be completed.

Q	Can level crossings be eliminated all together?
A	No this isn't possible as the infrastructure would need to be altered.

### Flooding

Andrew Burnett explained that over the past few years we have seen an increase in the effect of flooding, on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012 over 900 properties right across North Tyneside were flooded. We have been working hard to develop ways of reducing the risk of flooding to peoples' properties. The Council have invested over £4 million on reducing the risk of flooding to residents' homes and this will result in over 80 different schemes, including 5 major schemes. As well as engineering solutions we have improved gully cleaning and have been working more closely with other partners, including Northumbria Water

Q	Is Coburn terrace in Percy Main on your list?
A	Yes, this is one of the top 20 for works to provide a solution
Q	Drains used to be cleaned on a regular basis are there any checks now?
A	We have one gully cleaner for the whole of the borough but we are acquiring another very soon. Since 28 <sup>th</sup> June flood we check all gullies on a regular basis.
Q	Norman Terrace and Elton Court, Station Road and Willington Quay regularly floods is there a problem/blockage.
A	We are aware of this and are looking for a solution, it has also been reported to Northumbria Water.

### North Tyneside Local Plan

Neil Cole provided an update on the North Tyneside Local Plan – explaining that full information on this was available on the website and in libraries, summary leaflets have been distributed to all North Tyneside households. This plan will be for the next 15 years. The consultation is about identifying land for development. It is important that residents tell us what they think. The consultation closes on 6 January 2014.

Q	You said that there is not enough housing nationally but are builders not building?
A	It is a chicken and egg situation people are living longer, households are getting smaller and our population is forecast to grow which means we need more homes. Developers are building, but there are instances where developers do not have the finance nor the capacity to start immediately on site. Equally, mortgage availability can itself act as a barrier. But, as fewer homes are built, the laws of demand and supply mean house prices rise and there is also a growing affordability issue.
Q	How will this affect North Tyneside?
A	We have to provide enough houses based on the demand for 16,000 new homes between now and 2030. We have been working with Newcastle and Northumberland and some of the demand will be build in there area reducing the North Tyneside target to between 10,500 and 12,500. North Tyneside is a popular place and many people might live in the borough but work in other areas. The plan proposes that 25% of new homes are affordable. The plan proposes 170 hectares of land for future employment and regeneration along Riverside corridor.
Q	Where do people with disabilities fit in this plan everyone has a right to a home in their own town.
A	We are preparing a Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which will examine housing needs across all sectors including those people with physical and learning disabilities.
Q	There are around 670 people with a learning disability in North Tyneside. How will they continue to get support? Their needs are different to the elderly
A	Cllr Pickard advised that they understood the importance of continuing to meet the needs of people with a learning disability and wanted to try to ensure that this took place within borough. Cllr Frank Lott explained that Cllr Lesley Spillard has been working with service areas on this.
Q	You say the plan is to look at jobs along north bank/swan hunter site is a New Zone enterprise, I read the business enterprise zone next door don't get the same tax status, so will some business move?
A	We did not know if anyone will move, but the line has to be drawn somewhere.
Q	Is the special grant system just to develop that site?
A	Yes, the formal designation of the Enterprise Zones across the North East was made in 2011 and Government told the North East only 150 hectares could be formally designated. The sites were initially proposed by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and ratified by Government. There are a variety of tax breaks associated with the Enterprise Zones along with a simplified planning regime to be able to get on site and physically develop it.

Q	When does this start?
A	Enterprise Zone status has a limited period during which the various incentives apply. So when the various sites were selected, one of key requirements was the genuine availability and deliverability of each site. There was no point selecting a site that for whatever reason had no realistic prospect of coming forward in the short term – otherwise we would not be able to maximise those incentives.
A	Cllr Pickard provided an update about LEP and European Funding and Enterprise Zones explaining that without the site being an enterprise zone it would still be a derelict site.
Q	How do you get access to the River from the North Bank of Tyne?
A	There are a number of access point and obviously this is something we would look to encourage where it is legally and operationally feasible. However, there will be instances where the access is limited such as the land is in private ownership and cannot be accessed, where it is still an economically active part of the river. Equally for security reasons, access to the operational area of the Port of Tyne will be prohibited.
Q	River walks are great. But there is no access along certain parts of Riverside.
A	We have opened a new heritage route with story boards displayed along the way. Port of Tyne owns part of quayside and for security reasons there is no access.
Q	Members of the public have told me that there is no access.
A	Probably they are talking about the Rubber plant as the Bank side was dangerous and that is why access has been stopped.

Cllr Bruce Pickard thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.