1. **Attendance and apologies.**

   JB (Chair) welcomed everyone and thanked Gateshead Council for hosting the meeting.

   Introductions were made around the table and apologies read out.

2. **Minutes of last meeting held March 2014 and Matters Arising.**

   Minutes of meeting held in March 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

   An outstanding action is to be discussed by VOSA at this meeting.

3. **The Role of Parcel Lockers in Reducing Wasted Deliveries**

   LM of InPost explained the origin of the company in Poland and reasons for
starting up in the UK.

She spoke in detail on how the lockers work and where they are located in the UK.

She said that through surveys 53% of people ordering on-line aren’t always able to receive parcels so would prefer more options; they also like to personally collect higher value items.

They currently have 900 locations in the UK with plans to expand to 1,000 by the end of the year and another 500 next year which will include refrigerated compartments for groceries. They are available 24/7 and very secure. To accommodate people with disabilities, they can stipulate that the lockers allocated to them are low down.

The units, with up to 47 compartments, are delivered to by multi couriers however, to date there has been no congestion.

The InPost presentation generated a lot of interest, with LM answering numerous questions.

4. **VOSA**

SK alluded to the guide at the March meeting but today talked in more detail about the guide to maintaining roadworthiness. He said the guide explained the responsibilities and systems involved in maintaining vehicles in a roadworthy condition, regardless of operating conditions, fleet size or vehicle type, and said it is aimed at the legislation and obligations for operators and drivers to remain compliant. It is recommended that you read the DVSA guide using the following link:


KC updated the group on the national situation of testing stations. She said there were currently 400 national ATFs and that there were 12 in the North East region.

She wanted to dispel any rumours regarding the closing of the Newcastle test centre by stating there were no immediate plans to close Newcastle and that, in the future, the Vehicle Identification Checks (VIC) were to be carried out by Newcastle when Darlington shuts its doors later in the year.

The talk by VOSA was very interesting with a number of questions being posed by the group which, where possible, were answered by KC and SK.

5. **Year 10 Business Plan**

MP discussed the approved year 10 Local Freight Development Plan and what it is delivering in regards to sustainable freight movements.
He said the core tasks were on-going from previous years but this year there were new innovative ideas such as:

- Smart Phone compatible maps – to develop the existing suite of maps to be compatible to download on Smart phones and to consider how to promote the maps in a suitable format for mobile phones
- The re-design of the Partnership website www.tyneandwearfreight.info
- Rail Student Liaison – liaise with the Universities and Colleges in Tyne and Wear offering transport or logistics related courses, or with Nexus (planned Rail Academy) to offer support for their transport students by providing research subjects and advice
- North East Freight Awards – offering an Operator of the Year award (in conjunction with FORS members) and a Driver of the Year award
- Cycle Logistics Study – Undertake a feasibility study aimed at investigating the potential for cycle courier operations in Newcastle and Sunderland
- A scoping study for Intelligent Parking Bays – undertake preliminary work relating to intelligent loading bays, consulting with retailers and operators to ascertain how they could be introduced

6. Measuring Light Goods Traffic in the UK
MT talked to the group about the fast growing van sector, which had increased by 29% between 2002 and 2012, compared to overall freight market growth of 13%. He suggested there were concerns that vans were being used instead of HGVs, due to the reduced procurement costs and less regulation on drivers and the operation.

From the data gathered it appears van registrations in the North East have increased by 30% over the last 3 years.

MT divulged some interesting statistics for vans, that in normal roadside checks 80% were found to be overweight, and 50% fail the MOT the first time.

He said there had been difficulties in obtaining the data as vans can be treated as cars and not just commercial vehicles.

7. Any Other Business
The Partnership stakeholders congratulate Paul Davison (AECOM) on the birth of his son, Theo Joseph Davison, born at 19:55 on the 29th May 2014, a healthy 9 pounds. Mother and son doing well.

8. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting
- September 3rd 2014 starting at 10:30
- Venue to be confirmed