**Notes of Discussion**

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**Project:** Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership  
**Job:** 60044340/7  
**No/Ref:**  

**Purpose:** Partnership Meeting  
**Date held:** 18th September 2008  

**Held at:** Faber Maunsell, Newcastle  
**Made by:** Mike Page  

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Action By</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>JB welcomed attendees to the meeting at the Faber Maunsell offices. He informed the group that he would be Chairing the meeting in the foreseeable future as Mark Wilson is moving on to a new role as Transport Manager for One NorthEast.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Minutes from last meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by JB.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Promotion of the Partnership</td>
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<td><strong>Awards</strong></td>
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<td>It has been a successful year for the Partnership. After winning the FTA award for Freight Partnership of the year, the Partnership has been shortlisted for the CILT Awards under the Transport Planning category. The winner is to be announced on 23rd October 2008 in London. A representative of the Tyne and Wear LTP Team is attending the ceremony.</td>
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<td>Four people from the Partnership were represented at the Freight Transport 2008 Conference at the Barbican Theatre in London on 10th September. A great deal of interest was expressed from authorities with Partnerships not as mature as Tyne and Wear.</td>
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### Press Release and Promotion

It was agreed that the Partnership should proactively promote its successes. A briefing note is to be produced by FM and submitted by GM for the T&W Steering group meeting on 1st Oct 2008. This will incorporate a summary of the progress of the tasks completed to date and a vision mapped out for a further two year plan. This is to address what format the Partnership will take, cover work to be undertaken and who will be involved with the deliverables and outcomes.

FM/GMc

### Regional Event

It was considered that a regional event should be held for politicians and decision makers to promote the work of the Partnership. There was a view that this should go ahead even if the shortlisted submission for the CILT awards is not successful. Neil Raper is to approach Region Minister Nick Brown with the briefing note to encourage him to attend the event, which would either be held in November or January. FM to progress arrangements.

NR

### Website Pages Viewed

Hits on the Partnership website have been consistent and across all pages on the site. The number of website and Truck Information Point sessions since the last meeting on 12th June was 7,278, with the total number since December 2006 being 32,020. The most common pages viewed on the website in order of viewings were: Common Questions, Tyne and Wear Freight Map, Destination Maps, News, Traffic Info, Contacts and Links, and Lorry Parking.

The most popular pages viewed on the Truck Information Point at Durham Services were Traffic Information, followed by Destination Maps, and Lorry Parking.

FM

### Mapping

Maps have been comprehensively reviewed with company names added to many. One possible future improvement would be to produce company specific maps. This would be made possible by developing a database of company addresses and contacts for businesses listed on the maps. The identified maps are now near to completion and will be added to the website once reviewed.

One individual interactive destination map will be developed.

FM

### Loading and Unloading Arrangements

Each local authority has been contacted to discuss loading and unloading arrangement issues, but the level of engagement achieved has been disappointing. It was agreed that FM would produce a briefing note outlining requirements from local authorities. GM to take this to the T&W Steering Group on 1st October.

FM

### Truck Information Point (TIP)

There have been recurring problems with the touch screen operation of the information point. These were resolved in August through the replacement of the monitor screen.

Interest in the content of the TIP has been restricted to traffic information and routing - it was agreed that future plans should simplify the information available to these areas to encourage ease of operation.
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| 7 | **Freight on Rail Assessment**  
Research is underway and detailed discussions have taken place with a number of stakeholders. A meeting is to be organised with MM to gain a fuller understanding of rail freight issues. Northumberland County Council will be contacted to discuss the Blyth and Tyne line to Ashington. An interim report will be presented to the next Partnership meeting. The report looks at national, regional and local freight routes and the Freight Facilities Grant.  
At the Freight Transport 2008 conference, Jim Fitzpatrick (Transport Minister) announced that the DfT have earmarked an additional £67m for measures to promote non-road forms of transport. The grant will cover the period 2010 to 2013. |
|   | **Lorry Parking Facilities**  
MP explained that the Partnership have been in discussions with a potential provider of lorry parking facilities. The opportunity is being taken forward through liaison with Gateshead Council and is now under preliminary review by development planning. FM to report on progress at the next meeting. |
|   | **Consolidation Centres**  
Research has continued into the feasibility of a Consolidation Centre for Eldon Square (excluding M&S, Fenwick’s and John Lewis). The next phase of the work will involve approaching potential operators - a number are currently expressing interest. The scheme is expected to be small scale initially and will deal with incoming deliveries only.  
The Pilgrim Street development will have a larger footprint than Eldon Square and could potentially be linked to a future Consolidation Centre scheme. An update on progress will be given at the next meeting. |
|   | **New Tyne Crossing**  
Through the Mayor of North Tyneside, a campaign has been set up to bring forward the planned upgrade of the Silverlink roundabout to coincide with the opening of the two tunnels in 2011.  
Anecdotal evidence suggests that the new traffic management arrangements introduced on the north end of the tunnel in North Tyneside has reduced the waiting time to access the tunnel dramatically. |
| 11 | **AOB**  
None |
| 12 | **Next Meeting**  
The next meeting is planned for 11th December 2008 at 10:30am. The venue is The Bridges Room at Gateshead Civic Centre. |