

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE IGNITE STEERING GROUP
HELD IN ROOM FF01, STELLA HOUSE
WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2008 at 11.00am**

Present:

Members

Phil Hughes	Chair
Dr Tony Chapman	<i>until 12.25pm</i>
Prof Barry Clarke	<i>from 11.25am</i>
Barry Errington	GONE
Steve Gawthorpe	EP
Colin Haylock	<i>until 12.25pm</i>

Officers

Kirsteen Thomson	Sustainable Regeneration Manager
James Arkless	Secretariat

Minutes of the IGNITE Steering Group meeting held on 16 July 2008

ISG/08/21 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Ed Rowley.
Barry Clarke had advised that he would arrive late.

ISG/08/22 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

ISG/08/23 **Minutes from meeting on 2 April 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2008 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ISG/08/24 **Matters arising**

Stakeholders meeting

The meeting with stakeholders would be carried forward pending clarity on the future placing of Ignite. Some work had been done on possible new partnerships between interested parties and emerging new agencies such as HCA.

Meeting with Bob Kerlake

Steve Gawthorpe had meet with Bob Kerlake

East Midlands Regeneration

Colin Haylock had spoken with Derek Latham.

ISG/08/25 **Key Activities Progress report**

Kirsteen Thomson presented paper ISG/JUL/08/01 (Key Activities Progress report) setting out progress on key activities.

The report was taken as read, though its content would inform the discussion under the next item.

Resolved:

- i. That the Steering Group note the progress made; and***
- ii. That this report may be published in the public records of the Agency.***

ISG/08/26 **IGNITE – the Way Forward**

Kirsteen Thomson introduced a discussion on the future of IGNITE in the light of the issues identified in paper ISG/JUL/08/01.

A decision on a move into the Extended Enterprise was still awaited, but irrespective of the outcome of this there was a need to explore other possible sources of funding.

Minutes of the IGNITE Steering Group meeting held on 16 July 2008

Members had a lengthy discussion of the options, noting that structural and funding changes within the RDA meant that ongoing support from One NorthEast could not be relied on.

Barry Clarke joined the meeting at 11.25

Colin Haylock summarised that:

- 1) Ignite needed to find a home and a champion and this might not be One NorthEast;
- 2) The Agency recognised that there is a job to do. However there are close links between that and the role of the Homes & Communities Agency, so there was great potential for the two to come together;
- 3) Until the details of such a link-up could be finalised it was important for Ignite to identify and press ahead with priority projects.

The Group discussed how projects should be prioritised. They agreed that the Design Review was the top priority for the next three months. The procurement process was ongoing and the panel should be in place before the end of the year. Work carried out by CABE over the past few years meant there was a network and experience to draw on. The Group offered to support Kirsteen Thomson in progressing the Review over the summer.

The other key projects were *Our Place 2020* and engagement with professional institutions. Both were important and there were reasons why both needed to proceed soon:

- In relation to skills and engagement with professional institutions, there was a new pot of money available for higher level skills provision, and Ignite had a role in encouraging employers to apply to this. However the risk was that if there was a delay the opportunity might be missed. Barry Clarke indicated that there was a great deal of enthusiasm among young professionals for the sustainable communities agenda which should be harnessed.
- The first *Our Place 2020* had been a huge success and the Group congratulated Kirsteen Thomson and Barry Clarke on this, but agreed the initial success needed to be built upon. However in view of the Ignite's limited staffing resources it may be difficult to do this as well as the work with professional institutions. Both were seen as important and Barry Clarke offered to assist with running another *Our Place 2020*. Steve Gawthorpe confirmed that no more funding was available from EP but agreed to investigate other sources such as the Housing Corporation. Kirsteen Thomson would pick up the thread of a discussion in schools with colleagues in the Strategy directorate.

Colin Haylock and Tony Chapman left the meeting at 12.25

Minutes of the IGNITE Steering Group meeting held on 16 July 2008

Members of the Steering Group agreed to prompt key contacts and brief stakeholders on how they could assist in fulfilling these priorities.

Resolved:

i) That the Steering Group approved the approach outlined in discussion, namely that the immediate priorities should be as follows:

- Explore new linkages and sources of support for Ignite going forward;***
- Encourage partners to explore a possible joint venture between HCA, ANEC, ONE and GO-NE;***
- Proceed with the Design Review as a priority;***
- Engage with professional institutions on higher level skills and other issues as much as resources allowed;***
- Plan a further Our Place 2020; and***

ii) That Steering Group members offered their support with these initiatives wherever possible.

ISG/08/27 Any other business

There was no other business.

ISG/08/28 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be on Tuesday 7 October 2008 at 9.30am.

ISG/08/29 The meeting closed at 12.55pm

I confirm that these are a true record of the meeting to which they relate:

Signed: Dated:

Phil Hughes

One NorthEast Secretariat
Stella House
Newburn Riverside
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 8NY