

**Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative**  
**Minutes of Steering Group Funding Meeting**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

**Dobson Room, Newcastle Civic Centre**

**Present:**

Nick Clennett	Gateshead Council (chair)
Ray King	Project Manager
Jeremy Forsberg	Communications Manager
Sara Smith	Senior Support Assistant
Denise Newman	HMCS
Barbara Killen	Gateshead Council (finance)
Paul Flemming	North Tyneside Council
Andy Flynn	North Tyneside Council
Dick Fraser	Northumberland County Council
Gary McDonald	Newcastle City Council
Andrew Jackman	Sunderland City Council

**Apologies:**

Rachel Kearton	Northumbria Police
George Mansbridge	South Tyneside Council

**Discussion paper**

To summarise the discussion paper, the original grant for 2010/11 was set at £2,332,203 however government budget cuts have meant the revenue grant has been reduced by 26% (£508,000)

Four options have been set out for the funding partners to discuss.

£1,000,000 has been set aside as funding for digitisation and funds from NDORS amount to approximately £400k

Consideration is to be made with regards to Gateshead and magistrate's costs, redundancy (£83k) and putting the building in Cramlington back to its original state. With these in made closure costs have been estimated at £200k.

Northumbria police are keen to see the partnership carry on enforcement activities and would like to continue until spending reviews are known. The worry is to lose trained staff then need to recruit in 6 months time

All agreed the importance of continuing to deliver the road safety message, therefore have rejected options 1 and 4.

North Tyneside agrees but AF queried would it be a liability if the partnership waits until October (spending review)

RK noted the departmental level changes in October. Manage with no risk to partners but the longer it goes on the more problems could occur. Service Level Agreement states sufficient money in funds if close by March 2011

NC queried the cost of returning the building in Cramlington back to normal. RK has been quoted at approximately £150k. Wind up costs would come out of funds for digitisation therefore £800k left over to partners or to continue work with the police

AJ noted the views of conservatives and ministers are they'd like to see it disappear but what will replace it? They may come back in a different form or push on to local authorities

NC stated options 1 and 4 are rejected so a decision needs to be made as to what to fund. NDORS programme is well received and if we're not enforcing then we are not catching therefore not enabling driver training

DF supports a mix of options 2 and 3

NC noted the digitisation fund is available however we would want to move into new technology

AJ queried how long wet film would be available for. RK asked this question two years ago and were told a maximum of 5 years which is fast approaching

DF and AJ noted that the support was great for fixed cameras in Northumberland and Sunderland

All agreed to continue with partnership however NC noted the need to look at where savings need to be made and suggested looking at back office.

RK stated Northumberland police are the most efficient in the country and already 1 police officer down and would not be recruiting into this post which would leave natural wastage. Moving out of Cramlington by next year would save money and possible half the size of enforcement. However NC wants to maintain the level of enforcement. RK noted that reduction in enforcement would mean less income from NDORS

PF suggested increasing the cost of NDORS. RK to find out the benchmark for the cost of a course

**Action: RK**

RK queried if funds came to £0 would the partnership be able to continue? DF commented putting the price up on NDORS would be the only source of revenue for the future

RK noted savings could be made within the vandalism budget and £110k in project office costs

NC noted that claims had not been made by Northumberland and Sunderland and suggested they're still able to make a claim for last year however not allow any claims for this year.

To conclude the meeting the following was agreed by all funding partners:

- All of the revenue released by Northumbria Police to the NSRI to be used to subsidise planned administration and road safety activity (approx £360k, but not guaranteed);
- Local Authorities no longer to recharge for staff time;
- A moratorium on new sites and remedial engineering works at existing sites;
- If possible, HMCS to reduce funded FTE by 1 to 6.2 FTE;
- A review of planned ETP activities;
- Where partnership staff move on, or reach the end of fixed term periods, they should not be replaced at this stage;
- Local Authorities to examine how much of the unallocated £234k 2009/10 NDORS money can be released back to the Partnership (Newcastle has committed £26k and Gateshead £15k);
- Northumbria Police to be challenged over the £70+k retained for NDORS administration, as currently only 1FTE is funded by this revenue. Whereas it would be more equitable (and in the spirit of partnership working) to increase this to 2FTE and decrease the number of Partnership funded staff in the FPU by one; and
- Determine the average national cost of attending a Speed Awareness Course and raise the Northumbria cost to meet this average and use the additional revenue generated to supplement Partnership funding.

### **Any other business**

A copy of the letter from DfT to chief executives was circulated. It was agreed by all for NC to reply on behalf of the partnership. It was requested that all to give feedback via email by next week.