

LSP Board
15 May 2008
Workshop Town Hall
9.30 am – 12.30 pm
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Michael Quigley, Leader of Bassetlaw District Council
Vice-Chair:	Michael Newstead, Director, Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service
John Berridge	Chair of the Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team
Gillian Blenkinsop	Deputy Head of Community Engagement and Performance
David Colbeck	Chief Superintendent, Nottinghamshire Police-B Division
Bernard Coleman	Managing Director, A1 Housing Bassetlaw Ltd
John Connolly	Principal, North Nottinghamshire College
Richard Edwards	Neighbourhood Pathfinder Manager, Manton Community Alliance
Julie Hamilton	Senior Democratic Services Officer, Bassetlaw District Council
David Hunter	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council
Liz Jefferies	Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils
Louise Newcombe	Chair of the Health Sub-Group, Chief Executive, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
David Pearson	Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Keith Poyser	(Speaker) Director of the Bassetlaw Area Strategy Group
Karen Tarburton	Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
Lynn Tupling	Manager, Retford Action Centre, Chair of the Environment Sub-Group
Fran Walker	Consultant, North Nottinghamshire College
Bob Wallace	Strategic Partnership Services, Nottinghamshire County Council
Graham Whiting	(Speaker) Making the Connection
Derek Wilkinson	Churches Together
Robert Wilkinson	Chair of the Economic Development Sub-Group, Economic Regeneration Team Leader, Bassetlaw District Council
Joanne Wilson	Policy Officer, Bassetlaw District Council

250. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Penny Altham	Head of Project Development, Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
Steve Brown	Chair of the Social and Community Development Sub-Group, Senior Manager Support Services Bassetlaw District Council
Nigel Clifton	Chief Executive, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Sue Gill	Head of Partnership Commissioning, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
David Heath	Government Office for the East Midlands
Mary Mitchell	Hospitals Manager, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Andy Pearson	Group Manager, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
Phil Sibson	Managing Director, Aquila
Tom Stockwell	District Manager, North Nottinghamshire Job Centre Plus
County Councillor Michael Storey	Deputy Leader, Nottinghamshire County Council

251. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7TH FEBRUARY 2008 AND MATTERS ARISING

G Blenkinsop reported that, with regard to Minute No 224 – Community Sports Network – the launch had been very successful and an action plan and Terms of Reference would follow. Fran Walker reported that this project links with sporting activity that the Coalfields Regeneration Trust fund (e.g. sports legacies) and there may be some funding available for the newly created Community Sports Network.

With regard to Minute No 244 – Manton Health and Regeneration Strategy – M Newstead reported that the meeting had been held regarding the expansion of the building and it had been very worthwhile.

AGREED that:

1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2008 be approved as a correct record.
Gillian Blenkinsop to set up a meeting between Peter Clark and Fran Walker to make links with any plans Fran may have regarding sport and children and young people and progress possible funding opportunities for the Community Sports Network.

252. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE GROUP

Minutes of the Executive Group held on 28th February and 17th April 2008 were presented for information.

F Walker reported that the Adult Learners Week had been planned and that a page in the Worksop Guardian outlining activities and support available for adult learners would feature at the end of May 2008.

AGREED that:

1. The Minutes of the Executive Group held on 28th February and 17th April 2008 be noted.
2. Thanks be recorded to North Nottinghamshire College for their support of events in the Adult Learners Week 2008.
3. Fran Walker to report back to the LSP Board on the Adult Learners Week at the next meeting.

253. PRESENTATION FROM THE BASSETLAW AREA STRATEGY GROUP

K Poyser gave a presentation on the work of the Area Strategy Group (ASG) which was set up several years ago to enable improved partnership and collaborative working to take place between institutions within a local area. Its purpose is to plan educational provision to meet the needs of all 14 – 19 year old learners across a travel to learn area.

Bassetlaw's ASG is now considered to be a model of good practice and members include Head Teachers of Bassetlaw Secondary Schools, the College Principal the Learning and Skills Council, Connexions, Aim Higher, Nottinghamshire Training Network, ENABLE| and NEBA.

Nationally we face many challenges in terms of skills and educational attainment and these challenges are replicated locally. On a national level 50% of adults lack numeracy skills; 15% are not literate; and, although 70% of youngsters will have completed their compulsory education by 2020, 1 in 6 will have literacy and numeracy difficulties. Many post-16 year olds are not in employment and the country is currently suffering from a skills shortage.

The remit for Area Strategy Group was tabled at the meeting which outlines the Group's purpose, membership, focus points, organisational structure and key performance indicators. The ASG is supported by an Executive Management Group and has a series of strategic and operational groups i.e. Quality Assurance/Monitoring, Employer Engagement, Collaborative Curriculum, Information Advice and Guidance Group, and E Learning Group.

An introduction to the new Diplomas was included in the handout, also the roll-out of subjects, and an example of the Construction and Built Environment Diploma which is one of the first five available in Bassetlaw from September 2008.

These specialist Diplomas will give students an alternative to GCSEs, A-levels and existing vocational qualifications e.g. BTECs. By 2013 there will be 17 Diplomas available which will cover three levels and total 51 courses. However, it was felt unlikely that Bassetlaw would be able to offer this range of courses/qualifications. In terms of level the Diplomas lie somewhere between a vocational and an academic qualification. They will make learning relevant to the workplace and teach many of the personal skills needed for employment. In order to be able to offer a wider range of Diplomas it may be necessary to look to neighbouring areas.

Comments/Questions

Questions were asked about: involvement with the Learning and Skills Group; the development of e-learning; funding; sustainability of the scheme in a largely rural area; benchmarks/targets and monitoring; the differing levels within a Diploma; and how students can be encouraged to take up the Diplomas. John Connolly did express concerns regarding the offer of Diplomas in other parts of the region – primarily because of the movement of pupils and because funding is linked to where a pupil studies.

John Connolly reminded Board members that all planning and funding of education for all pre 19 year olds would move to local authorities in 2010. He said that the LSP must link in closely with these developments to maximise the benefits for this area.

G Blenkinsop referred to the LSP's Vision that "By 2020, educational attainment will exceed the national average" and asked how Keith Poyser felt about this – because the ASG are working to their own set of indicators. Keith did not have a problem with this vision. He explained that there had been a really positive improvement in terms of raising aspirations in the area because of the new schools. He said that this, combined with the strong partnership working in the District was having a positive impact and this was reflected in recent OFSED inspection results. These changes will also benefit local employers.

It was noted that Dave Richards, Head of Retford Oaks School, is the current chair of the Bassetlaw Association of Secondary Heads Group.

AGREED that:

1. Thanks be recorded to Keith Poyser for his informative presentation.
2. Thanks be recorded from the LSP to all Head Teachers in Bassetlaw in recognition of improvements in the area to date.

254. EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING (ERDF) UPDATE

R Wilkinson informed the Board of proposals for managing ERDF in Priority Axis 2 areas of Nottinghamshire.

The new East Midlands ERDF programme will run from 2007-2013 and consists of two Priority Axes: PA1 is focussed on innovation and resource efficiency and PA2 aims to increase sustainable economic and enterprise activity. PA2 funding is targeted on twelve disadvantaged district areas in the East Midlands, five of which are in the former coalfields area. Bassetlaw is one of the five and has been allocated £2,868,870.

Local plans for ERDF will specify priorities for action and the types of project which may be funded. The Local Plan must have the full support of all the local authorities in the area and District LSPs may also be asked for comments as part of the process.

M Quigley commented that the paper to the meeting of the Nottinghamshire LAA Board conflicts with the proposals within the report.

AGREED that:

1. The recent development on the delivery of the ERDF programme in the five North Derbyshire/North Nottinghamshire District areas and the pressing timetable for implementation be noted.
2. The proposed governance arrangements being put forward to the Nottinghamshire LAA Board for approval and delegation, where appropriate, be noted.
3. The BLSP Regeneration Sub-Group nominates a representative onto the ERDF Group.
4. Bassetlaw Business Ventures nominates a representative onto the ERDF Group.

255. PRESENTATION FROM MAKING THE CONNECTION (MTC)

G Whiting, Strategy Development Manager, gave a presentation on the work of MTC, which makes the connection between employers and potential employees, targets training and support, and develops skills (with a particular focus on people in the most disadvantaged communities). A copy of the presentation is attached.

MTC works closely with: -

- Employers to identify potential job opportunities
- Community groups to develop the confidence and skills of unemployed people
- Learning and Skills Council, who provide funding to train unemployed people
- Job Centre Plus, who are a direct link with unemployed people and
- County/District Councils and Local Strategic Partnership who employ dedicated economic regeneration teams who share MTC's aims to promote access to sustainable jobs and increase opportunities for skills development.

MTC adopts a flexible approach to meet the needs of an area's businesses and their requirements for a skilled and adaptable workforce.

Specific Schemes in Bassetlaw

In Bassetlaw MTC are currently working with Laing O'Rourke – as a potential new employer in the area and therefore a source of new employment opportunities.

In terms of Community Groups MTC is linking with the Family Employment Initiative work going on in Manton

MTC is working closely with the District Council to set up Gateway Programmes for the following sectors: -

- Food and Drink Sector
- Logistics,
- Construction
- Healthcare

Gateway projects give an employer access to locally based workers with the right basic skill set and with access to free training.

(Since the meeting Bassetlaw District Council is looking to add its support to this scheme and is considering putting an additional £20k into the Gateway project. This will allow more unemployed people access to the programme and will allow for the purchase of extra equipment e.g. protective clothing.)

Gateway projects are usually very successful. The outcomes of Gateway projects that have run in other areas include: 80% have achieved jobs from the last four gateways, with 90% retaining their jobs; and, out of 104 training places, 80% are job specific and 20% for training/development. It is important to progress work opportunities and to be reactive to employer requirements.

Comments

Comments made included: joint working with other local authorities ie Steetley/Laing O'Rourke which also links with the Bolsover area; the positive links this scheme has in delivering targets within the new LAA; the impact of migrant workers on the local job market; age group that MTC focuses on (which could be for any age) and the success of the existing Enable Learning Champions scheme which is already helping local unemployed people back into work.

AGREED that thanks be recorded to G Whiting for his informative presentation.

[The meeting was adjourned for a comfort break at 11.10am and reconvened at 11.25am.]

(K Poyser and G Whiting left the meeting during the break.)

256. REFRESH OF BLSP CONSTITUTION 2008/09

J Wilson informed the Board of changes to the BLSP Constitution which had been reviewed in light of the ongoing Improvement Plan following the Peer Review. The amendments were outlined within the report.

D Pearson praised the Constitution for its clarity. He asked that an amendment be made to page 34 where – Nottinghamshire County Council was not listed as a member of the Joint Strategic Group although it is the statutory community safety partner. North Nottinghamshire

College was a key partner in the Children and Young People's group and should be added at page 35.

AGREED that:

1. The Board accepts the amendments included in the report and others made at the meeting.
2. The revised Constitution be ratified.

257. QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

J Wilson presented the Board with the Quarter 4 (January to March) 2007/08 performance and management data for the County. District level information is not widely available. It was reported that a number of the twelve stretch targets will not be achieved. It was noted that 15th August is the deadline for the final submission to EMDA for funding for the Retford Enterprise Campus.

AGREED that the Quarter 4 performance and management update be noted.

258. SUMMER CONFERENCE

G Blenkinsop presented a proposed programme for the summer conference scheduled for 18th July 2008 at Retford Town Hall, and asked for any comments/further suggestions.

Comments/suggestions included: representatives from Nottinghamshire County Council are needed; holding future meetings/events at the Idle Valley centre and/or a Children's Centre; using the new bus service to the hospital to take guests to the Idle Valley centre; displays highlighting successful schemes; and to ensure that there is no clash with any Nottinghamshire County Council dates.

AGREED that:

1. The draft programme be noted and feedback on its content, the venue and date be fed back to G Blenkinsop by w/e 23rd May so that LSP support officers can progress with its organisation.
2. P Learoyd's replacement on the Wildlife Trust be invited to the next LSP Board Meeting.

259. LAA UPDATE

G Blenkinsop updated the Board following the NLAA Management Group held on 8th May, and tabled a schedule of indicators and targets for the LAA 2008-2011 which will be presented to the meeting of the Management Board on 16th May and Nottinghamshire County Council's Cabinet on 4th June.

30th June is the deadline for the Ministerial signing of the LAA.

Gillian explained that there are a number of indicators that it has not been possible to set targets for and these will be addressed in the autumn refresh of the LAA.

Comments made included: Community Safety targets do not align with Police targets but will do so from 2009/10; NI 192 has now been aggregated to a county-wide target as some Districts were concerned about reaching the original proposed recycling targets; the accuracy of the baseline for NI 154 was challenged.

(D Wilkinson left the meeting during this item.)

AGREED that the LAA update and Indicators/Targets for 2008-2011 be noted.

260. PARTNERSHIP PROFILE EXERCISE

A Partnership Profile Monitoring Information form was presented to the Board for completion to ensure that the Partnership has a broad representation of partners and reflects the make-up of the local community.

AGREED that Board Members complete and return the Partnership Profile Monitoring Information.

261. A NEW VISION

G Blenkinsop provided the Board with feedback from the visioning event held on 10th April 2008 and asked for agreement to adopt the new vision for the Partnership.

Comments on the new 'Vision 2020' included: the education element needs to be tested with the Area Strategy Group, the link with North Nottinghamshire is missing; "tourist destination" needs to follow "a place to live and work" and should not take precedence; the second bullet point to read."

Gillian did warn that if we added all the same words in about a "safe place" etc we would take ourselves back to the generic vision we had started with. She reminded Members of the Board about the prioritisation exercise that had gone on to identify 3 unique selling points for the District and 3 unique challenges which we had then voted upon to come up with the vision that was before the Board.

(K Tarburton left the meeting during this item.)

AGREED that:

1. The new 'Vision 2020' be amended as agreed.
2. Once the vision is agreed, each of the Sub-Groups and the Board ensure that their plans and measures support the achievement of this long-term vision.

262. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) LSP Board Membership

F Walker suggested that Sally Penn be nominated onto the LSP Board due to the development of the Children's Centres which will total seven next month in Bassetlaw. This was seconded by J Berridge.

F Walker also suggested that K Poyser be nominated onto the LSP Board to strengthen educational links. This was seconded by J Connolly.

AGREED that Sally Penn and Keith Poyser be nominated onto the LSP Board.

(b) World Mental Health Day – 10th October 2008

F Walker informed the Board of an event organised by North Nottinghamshire College regarding the emotional well-being of young people in Bassetlaw.

B Coleman suggested organising a charity day for the larger organisations e.g. Jeans for Genes Day.

AGREED that the event be noted.

(c) Promoting Volunteering

M Newstead informed the Board of a Volunteer Fair at The Crossing, Worksop, on 2nd June 2008, 10.30am-3.30pm, as part of National Volunteers Week. He asked if the Board would like to send a representative from the public sector to the event. He also raised the issue of running another I love Bassetlaw campaign linked to Valentine's Day in 2009 but no decision was made on this.

AGREED that the Volunteer Fair be noted.

(e) Retford Action Centre

L Tupling reported that funding had been received for the refurbishment of the Buttermarket in Retford Town Hall and asked if the LSP's involvement should be included in the press release.

AGREED that the press release refers to the LSP involvement/BDC building/PCT funding/voluntary partnership.

263. FUTURE MEETINGS

G Blenkinsop reported that the presentation from RCAN would be made at 6th November meeting and not 7th August as stated.

AGREED that the next meeting be held on 7th August 2008.