

LSP Board
7 February 2008
Fluid Power Centre, Worksop
9.30 am – 12.30 pm
MINUTES

Present:

Chair:	Councillor Michael Quigley, Leader of Bassetlaw District Council
Vice-Chair:	Michael Newstead, Director, BCVS
Gillian Blenkinsop	Principal Policy Officer, Bassetlaw District Council
Steve Brown	Chair of the Social and Community Development Sub-Group, Senior Manager Support Services BDC
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
County Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle	County Councillor Representing Bassetlaw
Sue Gill	Head of Partnership Commissioning, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
David Hunter	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council
Liz Jefferies	Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils
Paul Learoyd	Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Louise Newcombe	Chair of the Health Sub-Group, Chief Executive, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
Catharine Saxton	Member Support Officer, Bassetlaw District Council
Phil Sibson	Managing Director, Aquila
Karen Tarburton	Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
Lynn Tupling	Manager, Retford Action Centre
Fran Walker	Consultant, North Nottinghamshire College
Bob Wallace	Strategic Partnership Services, Nottinghamshire County Council
Derek Wilkinson	Churches Together
Robert Wilkinson	Chair of the Economic Development Sub-Group, Economic Regeneration Team Leader, Bassetlaw District Council
Daniel Watson	Economic Development Support Officer
Joanne Wilson	Policy Officer, Bassetlaw District Council

235. Apologies For Absence

Penny Altham	Head of Project Development, Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
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John Berridge	Chair of the Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team
Nigel Clifton	Chief Executive, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation 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
Tom Stockwell	District Manager, North Nottinghamshire Job Centre Plus
County Councillor Michael Storey	Deputy Leader, Nottinghamshire County Council

236. Minutes of the 15 November 2007 and Matters Arising

Agreed: that the minutes were approved as a true record.

Minute No. 224 Community Sports Network (CSN) - The Chairman asked for nominations for a Chair for the Community Sports Network meetings, this would ideally be an independent Board member.

Louise Newcombe gave an update on Community Sports Network. The launch date had been scheduled for 23 April 2008, 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. The venue has not yet been confirmed.

Gillian Blenkinsop explained that a bid had been prepared to secure funding for four part time workers that would promote physical activity in Bassetlaw. Gillian reminded the Board of the CIF funding criteria and that additional funding had already been received from other sporting organisations in the District. Negotiations were also taking place with Active Leisure Management. This is the company that Transform has appointed to manage the out of hours leisure facilities at Bassetlaw secondary schools on their behalf. Transform is the company responsible for the build and ongoing management of the new secondary schools in Bassetlaw.

The project would span all ages which had been a concern expressed at a previous Board meeting.

It was commented that Tony Wright, from Bassetlaw District Council's Sports Development Team had not yet had the outcome of the bid, although things had progressed rapidly from Christmas. It was agreed that an update would be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

The Chairman commented on an outstanding issue from the last Board meeting raised by Derek Wilkinson regarding the National Coaching Scheme. George Oliver was the Officer to contact at Nottinghamshire County Council who would be able to advise on how to access funding in relation to this scheme. Gillian also mentioned that Tony Wright, from the District Council's Sports Development Team was happy to assist clubs with applications for funding. Gillian would pass on the details to Derek.

Agreed: Board Members give the nominations for Chair of the Community Sports Network some thought and to forward these nominations to Gillian Blenkinsop. This would also be brought back to the next meeting of the BLSP Board.

Minute No. 225 Constitution – The Chairman sought nominations from the Board ideally from the Voluntary or Business Sector for a Shadow Vice-Chair, to replace Michael when he retires in 2009.

Lynn Tuping confirmed that she would consider the role, however if another independent was interested she was happy to give someone else the chance.

Agreed: It was agreed that Lynn Tupling would be the Shadow Vice-Chair and would therefore take over the position of Vice-Chair of the BLSP when Michael Newstead retires in June 2009. She would take on this post for two years in line with the Constitution.

Minute No. 227 Top 3 Board Priorities – Well Being of Children and Young People. Fran Walker confirmed that the Group had progressed. Fran presented the Board with the idea of running a mini Olympics in Bassetlaw in the summer of 2008. She had been in contact with CRT's lead officer for the Sports Legacy Project. She had received agreement in principle to this proposal and would hope to gain some funding through this project to support the delivery of a mini-Olympics in Bassetlaw. Fran confirmed that she would need the active support of the Board to make this project a success.

Minute No. 230 Nottinghamshire Children's Fund – impact of withdrawal of funding. Sue Gill confirmed that there were currently four projects in Bassetlaw. Funding had been secured for one year taking the projects up to March 2009. Long term funding for the projects was being pursued but the Board were asked to be thinking about potential funding from their own organisations for these projects.

Minute No. 233 – Any Other Business Gillian Blenkinsop asked if John Connolly was still experiencing difficulties in accessing Training Academy facilities at the Robin Hood Airport. John said that he had secured some access but not to the hanger. This was being managed by a private company. Robert Wilkinson confirmed that he had a meeting scheduled with the company managing the hanger for 18 February 2008. John said he would advise the Board if he needed them to intervene.

Bernard Coleman updated the Board regarding the training facility being developed at Carlton Forest which he wanted to be available to the public in the longer term. He explained that A1's two main contractors were taking on 10-12 apprentices. Bernard advised the Board that the Government had announced new funding for apprentices and that the LSP should back a bid to bring funding into the area.

Agreed **Bernard Coleman and John Connolly would progress on behalf of the BLSP.**

The College was planning to set up an Employers Forum that would help to match the needs of employers and the aspirations of young people at college and at school. Robert Wilkinson would support through his recent contacts and engagement with business. Phil Sibson, the Board member representing business, said he would be happy to get involved.

County Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle commented on a successful initiative at a school in Sutton-in-Ashfield. It had built units which were used to train students and share skills, such as the unit provided for the RAC for car mechanics, a beauty school, dress making etc. His vision was that there should be a similar training facility at one secondary school in every District.

237. Minutes of the 29 November 2007 and 10 January 2008 Executive Group

Agreed: that the minutes were approved as a true record

A discussion also took place regarding the proposal of lead Board members for the following three areas: -

- Quality and outcomes
- Stakeholder/community involvement and
- Governance

It was agreed by all that this was a good idea and would assist the partnership in moving forward. Members were asked if they agreed with the proposed officer leads/supporting officers and whether anybody else was interested in being involved.

Agreed: that the proposal be ratified
Bernard Coleman would also provide support to the area of quality and outcomes due to the work being undertaken by A1 Housing.

238. LSP Peer Review

A report on the Outcomes of a Peer Challenge of the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership was included in the agenda.

The Chairman commented on what was a positive report and thanked everyone involved in the work associated with the review.

David Hunter confirmed the positive outcome of the review. He explained that many of the other LSPs in the County had not had their final reports. He explained the context for the reviews which had been originally commissioned by the County Council to assess the robustness of LSPs and their ability to take on additional responsibilities as part of the LAA.

Gillian Blenkinsop confirmed that the document had been signed off by the assessors and would be forwarded to the I&DeA. Gillian confirmed that the document was not now confidential, but hadn't been shared wider than the Board. It was also commented that it was up to the Board to move the partnership forward and address the areas for improvement as part of its improvement plan.

Michael Newstead commented that the Board should not underestimate the work undertaken, as this had all happened without much financial support.

Discussions took place regarding the improvement plan and how the two areas could be linked together. 3 key areas for action were identified: -

- External Relations Workshop,
- Visioning exercise to define the long-term vision for the area
- Summer Conference.

A half-day meeting was discussed and agreed for 17th March 2008, venue and time to be confirmed for the visioning conference. **This has now changed to 10 April 2008 – 9.00 – 12.00 noon.**

Gillian Blenkinsop asked if NCC could assist by providing a statistical profile of the District, similar to those completed in the past by Richard Money. Councillor Gilfoyle requested that Gillian email him through the request for support and that it shouldn't be a problem for Richard to assist providing he had time prior to his retirement.

The use of the LSP logo to increase awareness of the Partnership was discussed.

Gillian Blenkinsop confirmed that she would re-issue the logo to everyone and ask them to use the correct headed paper and logo when issuing press releases/articles or documents.

The Chairman explained that there was no consensus about whether LSPs should be promoting themselves as a separate entity. He said we needed to consider what audience the LSP was trying to reach, whether it was the general public or the family of service providers. He commented that the LSP doesn't mean a lot to the general public and may confuse them by promoting another brand name.

Gillian Blenkinsop confirmed that an annual report was being produced and could be summarised to communicate some key messages.

AGREED:

- (a) that the action plan be adopted
- (b) that a half day meeting be held on **10 April 2008** - 9.00 – 12. 00 noon to address the long-term vision for the area.

239. LAA Update

The Chairman confirmed that Bassetlaw District Council was due to receive additional funding from the LAA for cohesion; this would be £26,000 in the first year, £49,000 second year and £75,000 in the third year. Michael had brought this to the attention of the Board to allow them to make recommendations on how the funding would be best utilised. Steve Brown commented that he represented the Social and Community Development Sub-Group where discussions had taken place about cohesion and that they could advise. Gillian Blenkinsop explained that a separate briefing paper on the latest policy developments on community cohesion had been produced. This paper was available to Board members.

County Councillor G Gilfoyle commented that the funding should not be used to promote just one community and that ways of matching the funding should be pursued. He confirmed that the County Council may be able to contribute.

Agreed That the New Community Group and the Social and Community Development Sub-Group should make recommendations back to the Board on how this funding could be utilised.

The Chairman commented on the Neighbourhood Pathfinder grant and confirmed that the Board had a monitoring role in terms of the grant and the delivery of the Pathfinder's objectives.

The Chairman commented that although we were selecting 35 indicators to go into the LAA we would be expected to deliver the 198 performance targets.

Gillian Blenkinsop asked if there were any concerns about the draft contents of the LAA to let her know, particularly around the indicators.

The LAA Management Group had proposed that the 2008/9 year should be a transitional year for the LAA in terms of funding but that in future years there was an ambition for funding to be targeted differently to address needs and to reduce inequalities across the County. This would be when the LAA becomes controversial.

David Hunter commented that monies paid directly to Local Authorities had not been ring fenced and raised his concerns regarding the allocation of funding for Manton. He explained that in reality not many funds were routed through the LAA. Richard Edwards commented that next year's budget had been reduced by £40,000 for the pathfinder.

County Councillor Gilfoyle reminded members that the idea behind the LAA is that organisations align their mainstream funding to these priorities.

Sue Gill confirmed that there was a lot of work being progressed across the County to complete the new LAA. She agreed that in future financial years there could be a threat to posts that are currently funded through the LAA.

Gillian Blenkinsop commented that all organisations currently receiving funding through the LAA had been warned to expect funding reductions.

The Chairman commented that in terms of influencing the content and delivery of the LAA we needed to be actively engaged in the work happening within the theme groups.

Agreed:

- (a) that Members of the Board note the updates on the Nottinghamshire LAA
- (b) that any feedback on the priorities and indicators be forwarded to Gillian Blenkinsop as soon as possible
- (c) that the Board note that the LSP will have a clear role in managing particular targets within the LAA
- (d) Richard Edwards to discuss the funding short fall for this financial year with the District Council.

240. Presentation on Progress of the Manton Pathfinder – Richard Edwards

Richard Edwards gave a presentation on the progress of the Manton Pathfinder.

Richard confirmed that to bring about change in a deprived area takes a considerable amount of time. He said that they had made progress but that the challenges were still significant.

It was explained that Pathfinder was not a project but a process to engage communities in the delivery of local services.

County Councillor Gilfoyle explained that unfortunately the Headteacher at the New Manton Primary School had resigned. He asked that as an LSP we speak positively about Manton and to be mindful of the hard work that has gone in to the school to increase its performance.

AGREED that the verbal report be noted.

241. Performance Management Report – Q3

The Board was informed that the BLSP Executive Group had held two meetings since the November Board meeting - 29th November 2007 and 10th January 2008.

The LSP Peer Review took place on 5-7th December 2007. Initial feedback from the team had been circulated to the Partnership and an Improvement Plan was being completed on the self-assessment and final report.

The following Chairs/Lead Officers drew the Board's attention to specific items of note within the report:

- Fran Walker – Chair of Learning & Skills
- Robert Wilkinson – Chair of Economic Regeneration
- David Colbeck – Community Safety Partnership

As part of the Community Safety Update, Derek Wilkinson noted that six churches within the Worksop area were involved in the Street Pastor Scheme as a pilot. The idea behind the scheme was to promote town centre safety in the evenings. Once fully trained the Street Pastors would operate from 10pm-2am and if the scheme proved successful it is proposed to roll it out to the Retford area.

David Colbeck said that there had been a rise in crime in some areas. He reassured the Board that a range of operations were planned and that the impact of that would be reported to the Board in May 2008.

Robert Wilkinson explained a number of very exciting and significant economic regeneration opportunities for the District. Bassetlaw is one of only 12 Districts in the East Midlands to receive ERDF PA2 monies. This means we will benefit from £750,000 every year for the next 5 years. This money can fund capital or revenue initiatives. The aim of the money is to support higher quality, sustainable employment opportunities. There is much greater flexibility in the way this money can be spent than previous European funds. Although the funds should target deprived communities businesses/investment does not have to be directly invested in the deprived community. The test is “will this investment benefit a deprived area?” If the answer is yes then the funding will be legitimate in that area. Funding is expected to be used on business development, outreach work, lobbying for external investment and infrastructure improvements.

Another major opportunity is the Growth Zone which will promote the development of the Blyth, Harworth, Finningley corridor for supply chain industries for the airport, supply chain opportunities linked to South Yorkshire and the logistics industry.

The location of private jet refurbishers and maintenance companies at Robin Hood Airport could generate further employment and business opportunities for Bassetlaw.

AGREED that the report be noted

242. New Community Group

The Chairman informed the Board of the one-day conference on 7th March 2008, to discuss the opportunities and challenges presented by the influx of A8 migrant workers on communities in Nottinghamshire.

Michael Newstead commented that it was too early to report any feedback from discussions undertaken with the new communities in Bassetlaw referred to in the report. The initial talks would take up to Easter. He explained that this was a tremendous learning experience and was a very important piece of work which will provide key information on the needs of migrant workers and their impact on service providers, employers and social networks in the District. It was commented that the Government had introduced a means test for ESOL courses. The cost of the courses was approximately £800 per year and this was prohibitive for many migrant workers.

AGREED:

- (a) that the BLSP Board continue to monitor regular progress reports from the New Community Group
- (b) that partners consider attending the countywide event on 7 March 2008
- (c) that partners note the guidance on translation
- (d) that partners respond to the consultation on ESOL funding

243. Understanding Our Communities

Daniel Watson informed the Board of the Indices of Deprivation 2007 (ID 2007). A copy of the presentation is attached which highlights which communities are the most and least deprived in Bassetlaw.

Daniel explained that the ID is used to determine funding allocations nationally.

Louise Newcombe asked if she could receive tailored support from Daniel for the use of the ID information which impacts on health. Daniel confirmed that he could provide this support and to any other Board Members that required assistance.

The Chairman confirmed that the data was available in spreadsheet format and thanked Daniel Watson for his informative presentation.

AGREED:

- (a) that the Board note the contents of the report on the new Indices of Deprivation 2007
- (b) that partners, if interested, attend a training/information session for further details on the ID 2007. Time and date to be confirmed
- (c) that Daniel Watson compile ID information for Board Members on request

244. Manton Health and Regeneration Strategy

A written report entitled “The Future of the Youth and Community Centre” – Summary report January 2008 was tabled.

Gillian Blenkinsop confirmed that work on the Children’s Centre had commenced. It was confirmed that the proposals with the CfSL were going well.

Gillian confirmed that Geoff George from the County would be calling a meeting of interested parties regarding the expansion of the building.

Louise Newcombe was anxious for this meeting to happen as soon as possible because the PCT could make better use of this site if the space available to them was expanded.

AGREED that the report be noted

245. Any Other Business

(a) Sub-Group Updates

Environmental Sub-Group

Lynn Tupling confirmed that a leaflet was being developed for all the nature reserves in the District.

At the last Environment Sub-Group David Ellis gave a presentation on achieving Fairtrade Status for Bassetlaw. , The presentation confirmed that Bassetlaw was required to meet five key criteria in order to achieve the Fairtrade status.

Lynn asked for the District Council to pass a resolution supporting the concept of Fairtrade and achievement of the criteria as without this the status could not be achieved. This also involves the Council changing to the use of Fairtrade products.

The Chairman confirmed that he would need to familiarise himself with the detail before being able to make a commitment. Gillian Blenkinsop confirmed that she would prepare a Cabinet report; papers would be passed to Gillian from Lynn Tupling and Jo Wilson.

Lynn Tupling informed the Board that an Older People’s Forum would be established in Bassetlaw. An event had taken place with interested parties and service providers. They would need to find a name for the Forum and would do so at the next meeting. Lynn was confident that the group would be sustainable.

AGREED that Gillian Blenkinsop prepare a report for BDC’s Cabinet regarding achieving Fairtrade status

Executive Group

Bob Wallace sought clarification as to why no one represented Nottinghamshire County Council on the Executive Board.

Gillian Blenkinsop confirmed the Executive Board's membership comprises chairs of the sub groups and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. The membership relates to roles not to organisations and this was agreed as part of our Constitution.

The Chairman raised the issue of the lack of consistency in attendance of the County Council at Board meetings. He confirmed that we had not had a Chief Officer attending Bassetlaw's LSP for a very long period of time. There has been a senior County Member in attendance but this has not been the same Member.

County Councillor Gilfoyle confirmed that he would take this back to County.

AGREED the comments be noted

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

246. Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 – Consultation on draft strategy guidance

Board Members were informed of the main issues covered by the draft statutory guidance on aspects of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and revisions of earlier guidance on the 2006 Local Government White Paper. The Department of Communities and Local Government was carrying out a consultation and comments were required by 12th February 2008.

Gillian Blenkinsop sought clarification on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and the proposed commencement date of April 2008.

Louise Newcombe confirmed that the first draft would be taken to the PCT's March Board and would be available for the visioning event.

Gillian Blenkinsop commented that the guidance contradicted what we had expected the role of the LSP to be – particularly in relation to accountability for funding etc.

The document was a formal consultation document for the Board to respond to by 12th February 2008.

AGREED that Members of the LSP Board note the contents of the report and give consideration to responding to the consultation by the Department of Communities and Local Government on the draft statutory guidance.

247. Linkage Plus Update

Lynn Tupling confirmed that funding for the Linkage Plus projects would end in August 2008 and this would have detrimental effects.

Gillian Blenkinsop informed the Board that financial support for the Preventative Adaptation Scheme had been agreed at Bassetlaw's January Cabinet meeting for a pilot up to March 2009. Year on year funding was still being discussed. Gillian confirmed that most of the other Districts were in the same position.

David Hunter confirmed the Council's support for the Preventative Adaptation Scheme (PAS).

Bernard Coleman informed the Board that the area doesn't have a Home Improvement Agency, which would ordinarily deliver a scheme such as PAS.

AGREED that the report be noted

248. Local Briefings on Children and Young People's Services

An e-mail sent on behalf of Anthony May was contained within the agenda.

The e-mail stated that the JAR team had organised briefings in each of the seven districts to bring together staff and their managers from across the partnership that work directly with children, young people and families. The briefings were to provide an update on developments towards integrated services, under the Every Child Matters Agenda, and to provide a context for the Joint Area Review.

AGREED that the e-mail be noted

249. Date and Time of Next Meeting

15th May 2008 at 9.30am – 12.30pm, venue to be confirmed.

Future Meetings

7th August 2008 at 9.30am – 12.30pm, venue to be confirmed.

6th November 2008 at 9.30am – 12.30pm, venue to be confirmed.