

**LSP Board**  
**6<sup>th</sup> November 2008**  
**Idle Valley Rural Visitor Centre, Retford**  
**9.30 am – 12.30 pm**  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Councillor Michael Quigley, Leader of Bassetlaw District Council</b>
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	<b>Michael Newstead, Director, Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service</b>
John Berridge	Safer Nottinghamshire Drugs and Alcohol Team
Gillian Blenkinsop	Deputy Head of Community Engagement and Performance, Bassetlaw District Council
David Colbeck	Chief Superintendent, Nottinghamshire Police
John Connelly	North Nottinghamshire College
Carl Cornish	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Chair of the Environment Sub-Group
Richard Edwards	Neighbourhood Pathfinder Manager, Manton Community Alliance
John Everitt	Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Sue Gill	Head of Partnership Commissioning, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
Julie Hamilton	Senior Democratic Services Officer, Bassetlaw District Council
David Heath	Government Office for the East Midlands
David Hunter	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council
Liz Jefferies	Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils
Chris Kenny	NHS Bassetlaw & NHS Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT
Louise Newcombe	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
David Pearson	Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health and Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
Sally Penn	Senior Co-ordinator, Bassetlaw Children's Centres
Chris Shaw	Acting Director of Community Services, Bassetlaw District Council
Karen Tarbuton	Rural Officer, Rural Community Action Network
Lynn Tupling	Manager, Retford Action Centre and Shadow Vice-Chair of the Board
Bob Wallace	Strategic Partnership Services, Nottinghamshire County Council
Esther Watt	Policy and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Bassetlaw District Council
Derek Wilkinson	Churches Partnership
Robert Wilkinson	Chair of the Economic Development Sub-Group, Economic Regeneration Team Leader, Bassetlaw District Council
Sylvia Yates	Executive Director, Sheffield City Region

**276. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Bernard Coleman	Managing Director, A1 Housing (Bassetlaw) Ltd
Keith Poyser	Bassetlaw Area Strategy Group

### **277. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2008 AND MATTERS ARISING**

**AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2008 be approved as a correct record, subject to an additional resolution to Minute No 268 "(9) The spending plan, as presented, be approved."

### **278. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE GROUP HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008 AND MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the Executive Group held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were presented for information.

**AGREED** that the Minutes of the Executive Group held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008 be noted.

### **279. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT - THE HEADLINES FOR BASSETLAW AND THE NEXT STEPS**

David Pearson and Chris Kenny gave a presentation on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which outlined: some key headlines; an introduction; policy context; guidance; commissioning and contracting framework; the process in Nottinghamshire; children and young people; older people; adults, hard to reach and vulnerable people; and future work.

The aim of the JSNA is to assess the well-being of the population which can then be used to inform partners and agencies for future planning; it will be updated regularly.

The full report can be found on the Nottinghamshire County Council website and Alistair Mc Grady is the point of contact if any specific information is required.

**AGREED** that thanks be recorded to Messrs Pearson and Kenny for their informative presentation.

(C Kenny left the meeting at this point.)

### **280. SHEFFIELD CITY REGION – OPPORTUNITIES FOR BASSETLAW**

Sylvia Yates, Executive Director, gave a presentation on the Sheffield City Region which outlined: its background; its aims and vision; the Forum and Joint Issue Boards; the prosperity gap as at 2005; and progress through innovation and knowledge economy, residential, transport, skills, Dearne Valley and destination; what this means for Bassetlaw and what Bassetlaw can do for the City Region.

#### **Comments**

M Quigley listed some initiatives which are already taking place: North Nottinghamshire College working with Sheffield universities; sub-regional strategy for choice based lettings for social housing; discussions on public transport in rural areas; and tourism destinations eg Clumber Park and the Idle Valley Centre.

M Newstead commented on the poor quality of trains running east to west eg Lincoln to Sheffield, which are main commuter lines. S Yates replied that two transport reviews are currently being conducted, one of which is looking at this issue.

S Gill commented that the lack of high skill, high pay jobs in the area is having a detrimental impact on the aspirations, and therefore educational attainments, of young people in the area.

S Yates replied that worklessness and health issues do not fall under the remit of the Sheffield City Region but brings opportunities for development.

D Hunter raised the issue of where Bassetlaw feels most connected eg to Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire or Yorkshire ie Sheffield. There is some benefit to be gained from all these affiliations.

J Berridge felt that lobbying for the retention of the Woodhead rail tunnels was well deserved.

R Crowder compared the Dearne Valley to the Rother Valley. J Everitt highlighted the natural environment underpinning growth, particularly in the Dearne Valley. G Blenkinsop added that if the Dearne Valley was aiming to be a centre of excellence for environment learning there could be opportunities for the Idle Valley Centre and its staff. This would reap benefits not just for North Nottinghamshire College but to the wider area.

**AGREED** that thanks be recorded to S Yates for her informative presentation.

(C Shaw and S Yates left the meeting at this point.)

## **281. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – THE LAA AND THE ROLE OF THE BLSP/BDC DEVELOPMENT IN ENGAGING THE THIRD SECTOR**

G Blenkinsop made the Board aware of a Community Engagement Strategy for the Nottinghamshire Partnership and the implications for the BLSP. The draft strategy was attached to the report and is intended to address National Indicator 4 – the number of people who feel that they can influence decisions in their local area.

The strategy does not make it clear about which decisions and issues the community can influence and whether the engagement strategy relates solely to the LAA and its targets or a wider agenda. The strategy asks partners to sign up to the best practice approach set out by the strategy and to utilise the guidance that is already in place to improve the effectiveness of our engagement activity. Each LSP is asked to produce an annual consultation/engagement plan.

M Newstead reported that in the last few weeks the BCVS had been approached by Bassetlaw District Council who wanted to learn more about the community and voluntary sector. To achieve this, three or four organisations had been assigned to each manager. The LSP could use this model which is providing an interesting way forward.

R Crowder felt that communities must be empowered ie ask them what they want and respond.

The Place Survey is providing the baseline and targets will be set following its outcomes. The strategy is a framework document, not an action plan.

L Newcombe remarked that a recent Mori survey highlighted that most people do not feel they can actually influence the PCT.

D Pearson felt that there is no shortage of engagement but rather a lack of coherence and co-ordination. However, it would be inappropriate to impose a rigid structure and we must use the tools at our disposal.

R Edwards felt that smaller areas are more manageable and asked what is it that we want to achieve?

**AGREED** that the sub-group chairs consider what engagement activity they have planned for the 2009 calendar year and feed this back to G Blenkinsop in order that an annual programme can be drawn up, duplication can be avoided and the best practice principles within the Strategy

can be applied. (The plan should be engagement activity which relates to the BLSP partnership agenda or the local delivery of the Nottinghamshire LAA, and not single agency activity.)

(A comfort break was taken at this point.)

## **282. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT UPDATE**

G Blenkinsop informed the Board of the latest development in implementing the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement (LAA), the key points being: Comprehensive Area Assessment; finance; communication; the six month refresh of the LAA; performance management; and the LAA Handbook.

The latest version of the LAA Handbook was attached to the report which includes some differentiated District targets.

With regard to finance, it has been proposed that the current resource allocations should be maintained for the next two financial years, 2009/10 and 2010/11. Any funding which does not have any existing purpose could be allocated into a New Initiatives Fund which can then be utilised according to the LAA's priorities. Distribution of the reward grant has been previously agreed where the seven District LSPs would receive 12.5% of the capital and 25% of the revenue.

M Quigley commented that the Nottinghamshire Leaders are concerned over the changes, and D Hunter reiterated this.

**AGREED** that:

1. The update be noted, also the impact on what funds, if any, are made available to District LSPs from the LAA reward grants.
2. G Blenkinsop to represent the BLSP at the Nottinghamshire Partnership Management Group meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008 that the funding distribution be retained as originally agreed.
3. M Quigley and D Hunter to take up the issue of LAA funding with the Nottinghamshire Leaders and Chief Executives respectively.

## **283. FEEDBACK FROM THE PILOT COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE BLSP**

G Blenkinsop provided the Board with feedback on the Comprehensive Area Assessment(CAA) pilot which took place in Nottinghamshire over the summer of 2008.

The assessment from the pilot was a very positive one with only one area receiving a red flag – levels of crime within Nottinghamshire. Two areas received a green flag – access to services for older people and use of public transport. Areas identified as possible future red flags – crime, teenage conceptions, schools performance, developing skills and qualifications needed for new jobs, County/City partnership working on the economy of Greater Nottingham, housing growth, and the amount of waste produced.

D Pearson commented that the Nottinghamshire partners are working well together and this has provided the Audit Commission with a positive impression of the area.

G Blenkinsop added that M Newstead's work on new communities had been recognised.

R Crowder felt that the assessment is not 'comprehensive' as there is no mention of, for example, wildlife or climate change. He felt that it is very much weighted towards local authorities' activities.

**AGREED** that:

1. The Board notes that a positive CAA pilot inspection took place during the summer of 2008.
2. Sub-group chairs consider which of the potential 'risk' areas identified in the report at paragraph 2.4 can be positively influenced by the work of their sub-group. (This to ensure that these issues are appropriately addressed through sub-group/Board action planning.)

#### **284. PERFORMANCE AND MANAGEMENT UPDATE - QUARTER 2 (JULY-SEPTEMBER) 2008/09**

The Quarter 2 Performance and Management Update was presented to the Board for information.

##### Updates from Sub-Groups

J Berridge reported that the national drugs strategy now requires governance arrangements which reflect similar changes that have taken place with regard to the County's Community Safety Board which is now the Safer Nottinghamshire Partnership Board. The DAAT will now join the Partnership and there may be structural changes within the DAAT to reflect sector managers eg the manager for young people will move to the Integrated Services for Young People. Similarly the manager for treatment will move to the PCT and the manager for criminal justice will join up with the Police and Probation Services. It was noted that both the PCT and the DAAT have places on the new Board.

L Tupling reported that she has now stood down as the Chair of the Environment Sub-Group and has been replaced by Carl Cornish from the Wildlife Trust.

M Quigley reported that the draft design proposals for Retford's Market Square had been approved by Bassetlaw District Council's Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and that public consultation will now take place. A "walk through" DVD on the draft proposals is available.

R Wilkinson added that a "fly through" DVD is also available for the draft proposals for the Chesterfield Canal corridor.

**AGREED** that:

1. The Quarter 2 Performance and Management update be noted.
2. The "walk through" of the Retford Market Square draft proposals be circulated.

#### **285. UPDATE ON THE NEW COMMUNITY GROUP**

M Newstead reported that, following the final report of the focus groups, it had been decided to form new sub-groups to look at: information; young people; and language and citizenship. All these sub-groups will produce action plans, of which a final draft will be presented to the Group for agreement.

Many positives have come out of the Group's work, citing the Police's talks to students at the North Nottinghamshire s College within the college environment as particularly successful. Similar social groups are encouraging conversational English which was found to be a top priority for foreign students.

A very relevant Polish person has been found to undertake consultation work with the Polish community; however, the Group is still awaiting the community cohesion funding to be able to continue its work. G Blenkinsop informed the Board that £11,000 of the £26,000 annual funding is now with Bassetlaw District Council and an invoice is needed to release the monies.

**AGREED** that:

1. The update be noted.
2. An invoice for the work to date be submitted to Bassetlaw District Council for the release of the community cohesion funding.

(J Everitt left the meeting at this point.)

## **286. RURAL COMMUNITY ACTION NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Rob Crowder, Chief Executive, gave a presentation on the Rural Community Action Network (formerly the Rural Community Council) in Nottinghamshire.

Its aim is "To develop thriving, sustainable and cohesive rural communities in Nottinghamshire."

A survey in 1999 highlighted that 91% felt that the rural area is healthier and 72% felt that it is a better place to bring up children, etc; however, there are many differing factors – for example, 1 in 5 live in poverty in rural areas and there is an increasing older population. Annually, 100,000 people move from urban to rural areas bringing problems of second home ownership and higher house prices. Farming has suffered dramatically and nearly half of farms have a net income of less than £10,000 per year.

Issues include: inequality and deprivation; poverty; homelessness; transport; and lack of access to services.

There are a number of projects through which RCAN is supporting vulnerable people:

- Enterprising Communities eg wheels to work, homeshoring, market towns, rural business enabler.
- Learning Communities eg CAST, IT champions.
- Sustainable Communities eg 21<sup>st</sup> century villages, climate change, community planning.
- Stronger Communities eg gypsy and travellers, shop-in-a-box, community planning.

RCAN is working with the private sector, Districts, the County Council, EMDA/GOEM, and other voluntary and community groups but needs help to:

- Keep a strong voice for Nottinghamshire
- Fight for resources for rural areas
- Keep equity in LAA

Karen Tarburton, the Rural Officer, was present at the meeting.

Copies of the RCAN folder, its Annual Report, and the magazine 'Rural Voice' were available.

**AGREED** that thanks be recorded to Rob Crowder for his informative presentation.

(D Pearson left the meeting at this point.)

## **287. SUB NATIONAL REVIEW**

R Wilkinson informed the Board that the Alliance SSP ends in March 2009.t March. Committed projects will still go ahead but the delivery arrangements have not been decided. TUPE arrangements have been discussed for Alliance SSP staff. Sheffield City Region needs to be involved in the regeneration of Bassetlaw and other parts of the sub-region, particularly for transport initiatives. Agreeing a common delivery structure for regeneration is proving problematic.

**AGREED** that the update be noted.

## **288. WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY**

In the absence of F Walker, S Gill updated the Board on the success of the World Mental Health Day. Many stalls had been present and hundreds of people attended. No negative comments were received on the day, although the Worksop Guardian's initial coverage had not been positive; good reports had been given by Trax FM.

Suggestions had been received for a future event which may even be held annually.

**AGREED** that the feedback be noted.

## **289. FUNDING FROM THE BASSETLAW PRIMARY CARE TRUST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

A copy of the letter from the Chief Executive of the Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust was presented for information which gave £15,000 for administrative support.

G Blenkinsop thanked the PCT on behalf of the Board but reminded the Board that the sustainability of this support needs to be considered and asked if any organisation could second a skilled administrator.

**AGREED** that the position be noted.

As there was no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.35pm.