

LSP Board
7th August 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, Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service
Penny Altham	Head of Project Development, Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
Gillian Blenkinsop	Deputy Head of Community Engagement and Performance
Bernard Coleman	Managing Director, A1 Housing Bassetlaw Ltd
John Everitt	(newly appointed Chief Executive) Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Sue Gill	Head of Partnership Commissioning, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
Julie Hamilton	Senior Democratic Services Officer, Bassetlaw District Council
Liz Jefferies	Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils
Paul Learoyd	(outgoing Chief Executive) Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
David Pearson	Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health and Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
Sally Penn	(Speaker), Senior Co-ordinator Bassetlaw Children's Centres
Keith Poyser	Bassetlaw Area Strategy Group
Philip Sibson	Managing Director, Aquila Business Products
Councillor Michael Storey	Deputy Leader, Nottinghamshire County Council
Lynn Tupling	Manager, Retford Action Centre and Shadow Vice-Chair of the Board
Fran Walker	Consultant, North Nottinghamshire College and Chair of the Learning and Skills Sub-Group
Bob Wallace	Strategic Partnership Services, Nottinghamshire County Council
Esther Watt	Acting Policy and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Bassetlaw District Council
Robert Wilkinson	Chair of the Economic Development Sub-Group, Economic Regeneration Team Leader, Bassetlaw District Council

250. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Nigel Clifton	Chief Executive, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Richard Edwards	Neighbourhood Pathfinder Manager, Manton Community Alliance
David Heath	Government Office for the East Midlands
Mary Mitchell	Hospitals Manager, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Louise Newcombe	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust

The Chairman introduced John Everitt who will be replacing Paul Learoyd from the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, whom he thanked for his work whilst on the Group. Keith Poyser was welcomed to his first meeting as a member of the Group, and Sally Penn was also welcomed as a new Board member.

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

With reference to Minute No 251, F Walker reported that a meeting had now been set with up Peter Clark to discuss sporting activities.

With regard to Minute No 252, F Walker reported that the Adult Learners Week had been very successful.

With regard to Minute No 254 – European Regional Development Funding, R Wilkinson reported that 30 bids had been submitted from the North Nottinghamshire Coalfields Area, 7 of which relate to Bassetlaw. The process entails: scoring of each bid; the Technical Group's appraisal of each bid; strategic decisions if bids exceed funding available; the Executive Group's appraisal of the Technical Group's recommendations; and formal approval of each successful bid by EMDA.

AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2008 be approved as a correct record, subject to the addition of Paul Learoyd's apologies.

266. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE GROUP

Minutes of the Executive Group held on 5th June and 10th July 2008 were presented for information.

With regard to Minute No 6 (10th July 2008) – Feedback from Governance Leads, F Walker reported that a meeting of the Quality and Outcomes Group has now been arranged; and L Tupling reported that she had met with L Newcombe to discuss the action plans.

AGREED that the Minutes of the Executive Group held on 5th June and 10th July 2008 be noted.

267. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENTS (CAA)

G Blenkinsop gave a presentation on the new scheme and the Nottinghamshire pilot, and outlined: what CAA is; when it goes live; what are the elements to the assessments; their frequency; and its importance to the LSP. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Comments/Questions

D Pearson felt that the pilot would be a good opportunity to test the new methodology and influence the final guidance. It will also provide a health check on the current partnership arrangements in Nottinghamshire, particularly around the content and delivery of the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement. Outcomes for the community are key within this new assessment. Having systems and processes in place will not satisfy this new regime – there must be clear evidence of delivering improved outcomes for Nottinghamshire people.

B Coleman asked how the CAA links to sustainable communities, and D Pearson responded that the use of resources will be scrutinised and the impact that agencies are having on the current and future prospects of communities in Nottinghamshire will be assessed.

S Gill asked what role the partner agencies will play in the CAA and M Quigley responded that the CAA is an assessment of the collective efforts of partners in an area. The final detail would be available when the guidance is finalised later in the year. The CAA replaces the Comprehensive Performance Assessment regime for individual authorities. The Audit Commission is unsure as to how the CAA will work in two-tier authorities, hence the pilot. The result of the pilot will not be published but may be shared with the partners.

G Blenkinsop informed the Group that there are four stages to the pilot: planning; evidence gathering and sharing; evaluation/assessment and reporting the findings. This will include discussing the findings with the LSP partners (3rd September); and the final report, which is expected by 30 September. The pilot will focus on the area covered by the LAA and the organisations within it will be the basis for all the assessment activity. The Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership needs to consider what action it will be taking to help deliver the LAA in Bassetlaw. This will form a specific local delivery plan for the Nottinghamshire LAA.

D Pearson confirmed that the report on the pilot will be shared with the LSP partners. The purpose of the CAA is to bring together various inspection regimes, and a Business Relationship Manager from the Audit Commission will be appointed to work alongside the partners to gather evidence. It will involve desk-top research but also face to face interviews and engagement with specific groups and organisations delivering the LAA.

R Wilkinson asked if the BLSP's Vision needs revising in light of the CAA. G Blenkinsop felt that the vision was still valid. The Bassetlaw Sustainable Community Strategy was based on clear evidence of the needs of the District and extensive consultation with Bassetlaw people. The structures, priorities and delivery plans of the Partnership are constantly being reviewed. A specific event to align the BLSP to the delivery of the Nottinghamshire LAA. M Quigley confirmed that it was important to know where the BLSP fits in to the delivery of the Nottinghamshire LAA but that the BLSP would also have additional priorities for the local area. M Quigley was aware of other examples of delivering the LAA in two-tier areas from the inspection work he does across the country.

AGREED that the presentation be received.

268. NEW COMMUNITY GROUP

M Newstead presented the findings of the four task groups of the BLSP New Community Group (NCG), which looked at issues affecting the new communities in Bassetlaw, and which had been formed by the merger of two existing groups. Over 24 different nationalities were identified as living in Bassetlaw, not just Polish as first thought.

(E Watt joined the meeting at this point.)

Recommendation from the task groups were outlined in the report, and a draft action plan was tabled. The full reports are available on www.visionbassetlaw.net

A report entitled 'Building a Picture of Migrant Workers in Bassetlaw' was also tabled for information.

Comments/suggestions

L Tupling suggested extending the 'First Contact' checklist.

P Altham suggested linking with the 'Hate Crime' work done by the Police in the rural areas, and asked if the gypsy/traveller communities had been included. M Newstead replied that they had not, that they had not been intentionally excluded but had simply been unavailable to attend. P Altham reported that there was a project called "Travelling Together" operating in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City. RCAN are working in Nottinghamshire and Framework are working in the City. The project has a full-time co-ordinator and a full-time support worker. It is a 3 year project which started in July 2008 and is funded through Supporting People.

D Pearson confirmed that funding for the community link workers (referred to in M Newstead's presentation) would continue as their presence had helped to reduce levels of truancy and bullying within schools.

M Storey felt that signposting articles/leaflets would be better placed in BDC's and NCC's newspapers and Polish newspapers, also at Robin Hood Airport and similar airports in Poland. S Gill added that such information could be placed in Accident and Emergency Departments, particularly signposting to GP practices.

M Quigley reminded the Group that there is only a budget of £26,000 and that all projects will need to be signed off by the BLSP Board.

AGREED that:

1. The Board notes the actions identified in the report and the proposed funding bids be approved.
2. All partners within the BLSP promote and share best practice in relation to working with new communities.
3. The membership of the New Community Group (NCG) and task groups be widened to encourage representation from the local community and local businesses.
4. All Sub-Group Chairs ensure all NCG reports and associated recommendations are reported to their Sub-Group.
5. The newly appointed gypsy/traveller community worker be asked to join the NCG.
6. Thanks be recorded to M Newstead and all the task groups for their comprehensive report and invaluable piece of work.
7. A letter of thanks be sent on behalf of the Chairman to R Bean and E Whittles for their personal contribution to the project/report.
8. A letter be sent on behalf of the Chairman to Hazel Blears, Minister for the Communities and Local Government, enclosing a copy of the report for information.

(At this point the Chairman welcomed E Watt who will be taking over from J Wilson on the Group. A comfort break was taken.)

269. PRESENTATION FROM SURESTART – BASSETLAW CHILDREN'S CENTRES

S Penn, Senior Co-ordinator employed by North Notts College, gave a presentation on Surestart's Children's Centres in Bassetlaw which provide integrated services for children under 5 and their families. She outlined: what is a children's centre; the five key outcomes within the Children's Act that the Children's Centres deliver, the implementation programme for the Children's Centres from Rounds 1 and 2; and what Round 3 will provide in 'non-disadvantaged' areas i.e. Retford rural. The services will be flexible, all-inclusive, encourage access to services, and target vulnerable families. By 2010, 100% of children under 5 will be reached.

(A handout of the presentation was tabled at the meeting, as was an organisational chart for the Bassetlaw District in 2008 – copies attached.)

Comments

M Newstead felt that the Centre for Harworth/Bircotes was good news due to the 9,000-strong population. He commented on the sensitivities surrounding Sandy Lane which suffers from high deprivation but residents feel excluded. He was particularly impressed by those Centres which are linked to play or youth facilities e.g. Manton and Retford.

S Penn explained about the work in preparing children for school, also other initiatives e.g. working with teenage parents, their protocols with 'Connection's and A1 Housing. Parental involvement is greatly encouraged e.g. volunteers, parent forum, consultation, etc.

S Gill felt that a networked Centre for the rural areas could result in early intervention and could also reach those groups/areas which are often unnoticed e.g. parents with disabled children, young dads, etc. L Jeffries echoed this concern for the rural areas where young mums/dads and children are often isolated, particularly in those villages without schools and/or public transport links.

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

270. QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Chairman asked the Sub-Groups Chairs to raise any relevant issues.

Comments

R Wilkinson reported that work is progressing, both in economic development and tourism opportunities.

F Walker reported that work is in progress.

L Tupling commented that she was pleased to see that a Green Flag had been awarded to Kings Park in Retford.

S Gill reported that alcohol is a big issue and would report further as the year progresses.

P Learoyd reported that the Wildlife Trust is awaiting a decision from the Lottery on the Idle Valley wildlife reserve and that funding is expected from September onwards if the bid is successful

R Wilkinson added that, due to further investment by the District Council, Gateway Projects will be carried out over the next three years which could result in the employment of up to 200 people.

AGREED that the performance management update for Quarter 1 (April-June) 2008/09 be noted.

271. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT UPDATE

G Blenkinsop updated the Board on the latest Local Area Agreement (LAA) developments, i.e: the LAA was signed off by Whitehall on 1st July 2008, and delivery plans are now being drawn up. A forward plan of dates until April 2009 was appended to the report. The LAA targets will be refreshed in the autumn and Christine Southwell from the GOEM will be overseeing this. 98% spend of the budget for 2007/08 had been achieved.

AGREED that:

1. Progress on the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the forward plan of key dates be noted.
2. Bassetlaw reviews its representation on key groups and ensure that we do have people with the correct knowledge and skills to represent Bassetlaw within the delivery planning groups of the LAA.

272. ADDENDUM OF THE BLSP COMMUNITY STRATEGY

G Blenkinsop presented the addendum of the BLSP Community Strategy for ratification by the Board. It was noted that this is for use as a reference document by the BLSP and not for use in the public domain. The Addendum contained the revised long-term vision for the Partnership.

Comments

P Learoyd commented that the Peer Review had been critical of the BLSP's short-term vision and that a longer term vision to 2020 is welcomed and that it recognises the environmental agenda.

AGREED that:

1. The addendum of the BLSP Community Strategy be ratified and published.
2. G Blenkinsop and F Walker to work on a four-page document for public use.

273. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

R Wilkinson commented that the Summer Conference had been very positive and informative.

F Walker suggested the Board visiting a Children's Centre.

F Walker reported the proposed development of the Priory in Worksop, which is supported by the Prince's Trust, and will involve the church, the gatehouse, schoolroom and surrounding land.

L Tupling reported approval by NCC's Cabinet for the Linkage projects for this financial year.

L Jeffries expressed concern at the new 'Links' which have replaced Patients Forums, particularly that meetings are always held in Nottingham and there does not appear to be a Bassetlaw representative. This concern was echoed by M Quigley speaking on behalf of the District Council and the Bassetlaw PCT. D Pearson said that he would feed back this concern to Links.

P Learoyd expressed his thanks to the Board for the last four years which he had enjoyed, and hoped that the BLSP's success would continue.

M Newstead reported that further funding is available through various initiatives, e.g. 'Grass Roots' and 'Bridging the Gap', and asked Board Members to circulate this information.

P Altham reported that Mansfield and Bassetlaw will continue to benefit from Coalfields Regeneration Trust funding until 2011.

A copy of the Manton Community Alliance Performance Update was tabled for information.

AGREED that a presentation on the proposed development of the Priory area be given at a future Board Meeting.

274. FUTURE MEETINGS

AGREED that the next meeting be held on 6th November 2008, possibly at the Idle Valley Wildlife Centre.

(J Wilson joined the meeting at this point.)

275. PRESENTATION TO J WILSON, POLICY OFFICER, BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Chairman presented a bouquet of flowers to J Wilson in recognition of her work for the Board, and wished her all the best during her maternity leave.

As there was no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.15pm.