

LSP Board
7th May 2009
Idle Valley Rural Learning Centre, Retford
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
Gillian Blenkinsop	Deputy Head of Community Engagement and Performance, Bassetlaw District Council
Peter Clark	Acting Head of Leisure Services, Bassetlaw District Council
Bernard Coleman	Managing Director, A1 Housing (Bassetlaw) Ltd
John Connolly	Principal, North Nottinghamshire College
Carl Cornish	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Chair of the Environment Sub-Group
Sue Gill	Head of Partnership Commissioning, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
Julie Hamilton	Senior Democratic Services Officer, Bassetlaw District Council
Helen Houghton	Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
David Hunter	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council
Liz Jefferies	Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils
Richard Mervill	Bassetlaw Play Partnership
Louise Newcombe	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
Geraldine Pearce	Incoming Director of Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service
David Pearson	Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health and Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
Richard Schofield	Policy and Implementation Manager, Bassetlaw District Council
Phil Sibson	Sales Director, Aquila Business Products Ltd
Michael Stenson	Job Centre Plus
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
Fran Walker	Consultant, North Nottinghamshire College and Chair of the Learning and Skills Sub-Group
Derek Wilkinson	Retford and Worksop Churches Partnership
Robert Wilkinson	Chair of the Economic Development Sub-Group, Economic Regeneration Team Leader, Bassetlaw District Council

1. MICHAEL NEWSTEAD, VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman advised the Board that this was the last meeting for Michael Newstead due to his imminent retirement. He thanked him for his work and support whilst on the Board, presented a

card and cheque on behalf of the Board, and wished him well for a long and happy retirement. M Newstead thanked the Board, and the Chairman introduced Geraldine Pearce who will be the new Director of the Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service.

AGREED that thanks and best wishes be recorded to Michael Newstead.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Group members introduced themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from:

John Everitt	Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Mary Mitchell	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Keith Poyser	Bassetlaw Area Strategy Group
Mick Storey	Nottinghamshire County Councillor
Dave Wakelin	Nottinghamshire Police

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2008 AND MATTERS ARISING

AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2008 be approved as a correct record.

M Quigley updated the Board on the unsuccessful bid for City Region status by Sheffield which had gone to Leeds and Manchester.

G Blenkinsop reported that the Community Engagement Strategy had been presented to the Executive Group on 16th April. It was felt that, although it is a useful document, it is too ambitious and needs refinement.

4. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE GROUP HELD ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2008 AND 26TH FEBRUARY 2009, AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the Executive Group held on 27th November 2008 and 26th February 2009 were presented for information.

AGREED that the Minutes of the Executive Group held on 27th November 2008 and 26th February 2009 be noted.

5. SKILLS PLEDGE

F Walker informed the Board of the Skills Pledge, which is a commitment for employers to train their employees to reach a certain level of achievement ie Level 2. However, due to the economic downturn, uptake has been slow, although some firms have shown interest. The District Council, County Council and Primary Care Trust have all signed up to the pledge.

F Walker informed the Board of the forthcoming Adult Learners Week which is to be held next week and outlined some activities which have been arranged during the week.

AGREED that:

1. All Board Members should look at signing up to the Skills Pledge and any interested parties should contact J Connolly.
2. F Walker to arrange a publicity event after the June Elections.

6. LAA UPDATE

G Blenkinsop informed the Board of the latest developments in implementing the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement, including: Comprehensive Area Assessment; finance; communication; the LAA Refresh; and the Performance Reward Grant for the LAA 2.

Appended to the report were: details of the Pump Priming grant; LAA pooled funding streams; the LAA Refresh 2009; and the Nottinghamshire Partnership Constitution and Terms of Reference.

D Pearson added that the County Council is holding a meeting this afternoon with the Audit Commission which, hopefully, will result in improved outcomes for the County; and M Quigley added that £49k community cohesion funding had been allocated to the New Community Group and the spend is on the agenda for approval by the Board (see Agenda Item No 12).

AGREED that the update report on the Nottinghamshire LAA be noted.

7. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY: WORKING TOGETHER

R Schofield informed the Board about the potential, and the need, for closer integration between the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and the Local Development Framework (LDF), and demonstrated the benefits of closer working between Planning Policy and the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership. This will ensure that emerging best practice and Government guidance is followed, and that more joined up planning and delivery is achieved for the District.

He gave a presentation on: what is the SCS and the LDF; why should we work together (inter-relationships); how we can help each other (synergies); and the next steps for the LDF and SCS. (A handout of the presentation was circulated at the meeting.)

Questions/issues were asked/raised, including: what is Bassetlaw's destination; the LDF process must include the LSP's ambitions; the LDF evidence base; and access to local spending reports published in April 2009.

AGREED that:

1. A mapping exercise be undertaken to include published plans already in circulation.
2. A half-day workshop be arranged to discuss the future of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), this to include LSP partners, including the Police and the Fire Services, schools, churches, business and voluntary sectors.
3. More effective links between the LDF and SCS be developed, as well as pursuing an infrastructure delivery programme for the District.
4. District Council Planning staff be given a seat on each of the LSP sub-groups.
5. Future infrastructure and planning proposals, as well as key consultations, be brought to the relevant LSP body for discussion and development.
6. Consideration be given to joint monitoring reports.
7. Thanks be recorded to R Schofield for his informative presentation and report.

(A comfort break was taken at this point.)

8. PLAY DEVELOPMENTS – THE ROLE OF PLAY IN HELPING THE BLSP TO ACHIEVE ITS OUTOMES

R Mervill gave a presentation on 'Play: Making the Most of the Opportunities', a handout of which was circulated at the meeting.

The presentation outlined: what is play; why is play important; initiatives; the Bassetlaw Play Partnership; funding; what's next; and what's happening locally.

Questions/issues were asked/raised, including: accessibility by disabled children; holiday play schemes; Bassetlaw Play Forum; promotion of the play facilities; funding; links with schools; cultural expectations; accreditation scheme for sports clubs; and local initiatives.

AGREED that thanks be recorded to R Mervill for his informative presentation.

9. BLSP CHAPTER FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

G Blenkinsop informed the Board that she was currently drafting the BLSP Chapter.

AGREED that G Blenkinsop circulates the draft BLSP Chapter to Board Members by Monday, 11th May 2009.

10. TACKLING THE CREDIT CRUNCH – LOCAL INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS AND ADDRESS THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

P Sibson informed the Board of an informal meeting which had taken place in lieu of the proposed Board Meeting on 5th February 2009 which had been "snowed off". Local Multiplier 3 (LM3) was explained, which shows how money is spent in the locality. An event had been held in March, at which 65 businesses had attended. A further event has been arranged for 9th June in Retford to promote LM3. A 'Meet the Buyer' event is also planned for 15th September.

R Wilkinson explained that a sub-group comprising himself, P Sibson, two business representatives and N Platts (BDC's Communications & Engagement Manager) had been set up to progress these events and other initiatives, including: poster campaign; loyalty card scheme; website development; public sector procurement workshop; and 'Getting Started' events.

Issues raised included: funding; 'bad press' by the local media; public consultation; procurement practice; loyalty card for A1 Housing tenants; fairtrade; and website development.

D Hunter added that Bassetlaw District Council was in receipt of £170k LAGBI monies, of which some may be available for such initiatives.

M Stenson, Job Centre Plus, informed the Board of work currently being undertaken in respect of redundancy; signposting; and new initiatives. He confirmed that the Retford Job Centre will now not be closing due to the increasing numbers of those unemployed, which has risen from 851 for Worksop in August 2008 to 1,932 (– he did not have the figures for Retford).

AGREED that:

1. The LSP Board endorses the approach taken to tackle the credit crunch and the bid for funding from the District Council.
2. The unemployment figures for Retford be circulated to all Board Members.
3. Graham Sheppard, Senior External Relations Manager at Job Centre Plus, to attend future Board Meetings.

11. PERFORMANCE AND MANAGEMENT UPDATE - QUARTER 4 (JANUARY TO MARCH) 2008/09

The Quarter 4 Performance and Management Update was presented to the Board for information.

G Blenkinsop reported that workshops are to be held over the next few weeks to revise the action plans.

AGREED that the Quarter 4 Performance and Management update be noted.

(D Pearson left the meeting at this point.)

12. CHANGE 4 LIFE – NATIONAL HEALTH PROMOTION CAMPAIGN AND ROLE OF THE BLSP

P Clark and H Houghton presented the Board with the Change 4 Life Charter for the BLSP and the Change 4 Life Communications Strategy. Change 4 Life is a society wide movement that aims to prevent people from becoming overweight by encouraging them to eat healthily and move more. It is supported locally by the BLSP's action planning to create opportunities for improving healthy food choices, physical activity and the promotion of making life changes to improve health.

AGREED that:

1. The updated Charter be circulated to all Board Members with the Minutes.
2. The Charter be supported in principle and the Health Sub-Group be asked to work on the contents of the Charter.
3. The final Charter be approved by the BLSP and signed by each organisation as part of the BLSP.
4. The details of the Change 4 Life Communications Strategy be noted.
5. Board Members be invited to the local launch event of the Change 4 Life initiative.

13. SPENDING OUT-TURN FOR THE NEW COMMUNITY GROUP AND PROPOSALS FOR 2009/10 SPEND

M Newstead reported that a meeting of the New Community Group had taken place on 6th May which had been very well attended and at which the action plans and proposed spends had been revised. Action/spend to date and proposed action/spend were outlined. It was emphasised that any initiatives should focus on local issues. It was also noted that official reporting centres for Hate Crime are not widely known and signposts need updating.

AGREED that:

1. The New Community Group proposed budget for 2009/10 be approved.
2. Paul Buck, the Head of Portland School, be invited to the next Board Meeting to provide the BLSP with a link with schools.
3. A presentation on Hate Crime reporting centres be given to a future Board Meeting.

14. MIGRATION IMPACT FUND – EXPLANATION OF SCHEME AND PROJECT BIDS FOR THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PARTNERSHIP AREA

A copy of the guidance notes for applicants was presented to the Board for information, together with a list of applications to date.

AGREED that the information on the Migration Impact Fund be noted.

15. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COMPACT PLUS

A copy of the Nottinghamshire Compact was circulated with the Board papers.

AGREED that the BLSP will sign up to the Nottinghamshire Compact Plus.

16. PROPOSED DATES FOR 2009

AGREED that the Board Meeting, originally proposed for 6th August, be re-arranged for 10th September 2009.

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