

**LSP Board**  
**4<sup>th</sup> November 2010**  
**Idle Valley Rural Learning Centre, Retford**  
**9.30 am – 12.40 pm**  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Councillor Michael Quigley, Leader of Bassetlaw District Council</b>
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	<b>Lynn Tupling, Chief Executive, Retford Action Centre</b>
Gillian Blenkinsop	Deputy Head of Community Engagement and Performance, Bassetlaw District Council
John Connolly	Principal, North Nottinghamshire College
Richard Edwards	Pathfinder Manager, Manton Community Alliance
John Everitt	Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Cheryl George	Health Improvement Principal, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust
Tim Gregory	Corporate Director, Nottinghamshire County Council
Julie Hamilton	Senior Democratic Services Officer, Bassetlaw District Council
Chris Hooper	Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
David Hunter	Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council
Liz Jefferies	Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils
Wendy Knight	Deputy Director, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals
Mary Mitchell	Director, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals
Geraldine Pearce	Director, Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service
Keith Poyser	Bassetlaw 14-19 Area Strategy Group
Richard Schofield	Planning Policy and Conservation Manager, Bassetlaw District Council
Phil Sibson	Managing Director, Aquila Business Products
Fran Walker	Consultant, North Nottinghamshire College
Derek Wilkinson	Retford and Worksop Churches Partnership
Joanne Wilson	Policy and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and all Group members introduced themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Felicity Cox	Interim Chief Executive, NHS Bassetlaw
Anne Danvers	Jobcentre Plus
Sue Gill	Head of Partnership Commissioning, NHS Bassetlaw
David Pearson	Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
Dave Wakelin	Chief Superintendent, Nottinghamshire Police B Division

## **2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING**

### **(a) Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

**AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 be approved as a correct record.

(By agreement, the Chairman brought forward Agenda Items 3 and 4 to accommodate the presenters.)

## **3. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – BUDGET POSITION**

Tim Gregory, Corporate Director, gave a presentation on Nottinghamshire County Council's Savings Proposals Brief. The County Council Meeting report of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010 was included in the Agenda; and a handout of the presentation slides was tabled.

The presentation outlined: budget background; budget pressures; increase in demand; budget savings required for 2011/12; reasons for the shortfall; spending review; savings summary; approach; scale; measures and consultation; voluntary sector grants; transport and environment; and other proposals. The County Council has undertaken a 'Big Consultation' exercise through the local media, its website, libraries, and comments/letters received. Details will not be known until December when the financial settlement is announced. It is expected that the larger metropolitan authorities will be the bigger losers but any lobbying could impact further on smaller authorities.

Questions/issues raised/comments included: the impact of reduced services on communities and residents e.g. community safety; who can fill the gaps left by the cuts e.g. voluntary sector; reduced funding for the voluntary sector may require the amalgamation of voluntary groups; local authorities must re-engineer services; quick decisions could mean some services are lost forever; greater fund raising will be needed to fund the shortfall in funding to the voluntary sector; private sector contracts may be too costly and/or lengthy; management and overhead costs should be cut, rather than frontline services; the possibility of smaller authorities merging; and partnerships with private companies to provide such services as leisure, etc.

**AGREED** that:

1. Thanks be recorded to Mr Gregory for his informative presentation.
2. The position be noted.
3. A half-day workshop be arranged to look at the impact in greater detail and formulate a response back to the County Council. Board Members to contact G Blenkinsop if interested.

(J Wilson joined the meeting during this item.)

(T Gregory left the meeting.)

## **4. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK UPDATE**

Richard Schofield, Planning Policy and Conservation Manager, gave an update on the progress of the Local Development Framework. A diagrammatic summary of the Core Strategy was tabled, which replaces the Bassetlaw Local Plan, and which shows anticipated development over the next 15 years.

The Core Strategy will be used to project population estimates and therefore demand on services, and can be used as a basis for future strategies e.g. Community Strategy. Harworth/Bircotes is the proposed regeneration site for future economic and housing development due to its proximity to the A1(M). Rural affordable housing is also being planned

around the Core Strategy which sets out the three local service centres of Langold/Carlton, Misterton and Tuxford and visions for its 21 individual settlements.

Consultation is commencing on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and will include public sessions, presentations to parish councils, the District Council's website, libraries, press articles and a District Council event in December 2010. Following the six-week consultation period, the Core Strategy will be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval and will, hopefully, be formally adopted by Bassetlaw District Council in Spring 2011.

**AGREED** that:

1. Thanks be recorded to R Schofield for his informative presentation.
2. A formal letter of support be given from the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership Board for the Local Development Framework's Core Strategy.
3. Board Members contact R Schofield if they would like him to attend an event as part of the consultation on the Core Strategy.

(R Schofield left the meeting.)

(A comfort break was taken at this point.)

## **5. BUDGET BALANCES - COHESION AND LAA REWARD GRANT**

G Blenkinsop presented an update report on LAA Reward Grant Approved Bids 2010/11 (£18,600 Revenue and £174,500 Capital) and the Community Cohesion Fund Year 3 2010/11 (totalling £39,624.50).

The bid for 'developing CCTV to cover Bassetlaw' was questioned as to whether this is proceeding as Bassetlaw District Council is also looking at the future development of CCTV.

**AGREED** that M Quigley writes to the Town Centre Partnership for confirmation that the bid for 'developing CCTV to cover Bassetlaw' is proceeding and updates the Board on its plans at the next Board Meeting.

## **6. THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR – OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS**

G Pearce, Director of Bassetlaw Community & Voluntary Service, gave a presentation on the national and local picture with regard to the funding of the voluntary and community sector in Bassetlaw, focussing on the threats and opportunities associated with funding reductions.

A report and handout of the presentation slides was tabled, although Geraldine gave a slightly different presentation.

The Board was informed that Clare Babbs, an engagement consultant, was offering six days work to Bassetlaw for community engagement networking at no cost. This would include a network event on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 with the theme of a 'Bigger Civil Society'.

It was also reported that a Big Lottery and Heritage Lottery adviser will be present on 9<sup>th</sup> November at the BCVS offices to advise organisations on completing and submitting funding bids.

Questions/issues raised/comments included: co-ordination is needed to implement a positive change; voluntary organisations could be used to fill shortfalls in services; the CAB gives advice on benefits to clients which saves BDC officer time; business cases must show value for money; the impact on core services e.g. particularly those to vulnerable people; preventative services save money; voluntary organisations will need to be smarter at obtaining funding; transitional arrangements; the merging of national voluntary organisations; the demise of local voluntary

services to local people; volunteering could be seen as a part of the employment process; greater use of volunteers; support and training of volunteers.

M Quigley urged voluntary organisations to contact their own or all BDC and NCC Councillors who have £1,000 and £10,000 Community Grants each respectively to spend locally.

**AGREED** that:

1. The Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership keeps the situation under review and seeks to help voluntary and community sector partners with maintaining a proactive, strategic approach in uncertain times.
2. The statutory funding partners consider carefully the short and long term impact on any further funding reduction on the voluntary and community sector at this time.
3. The list of voluntary and community organisations in Bassetlaw, together with County-wide organisations working in Bassetlaw, be circulated to all Board Members.
4. The community engagement event arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 be noted.
5. The lottery advice event arranged for 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the BCVS offices be noted.
6. Voluntary organisations be urged to lobby government on funding cuts on an individual basis.

## **7. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

M Quigley presented the final draft of the Bassetlaw Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-20, 'This is Bassetlaw: Working Together'.

**AGREED** that any amendments to the final draft Bassetlaw Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-20, 'This is Bassetlaw: Working Together' be forwarded to G Blenkinsop within the next seven days.

## **8. UPDATE ON LOCALITY APPROACH**

R Edwards briefed the Board on initial plans and actions to deliver localism, following the Board's decision that Bassetlaw Pathfinder (Manton Community Alliance) would be the lead body to develop and co-ordinate localism in the District. The report outlined: general criteria for areas of choice; groups to benefit; types of support; and a three-staged approach. It was noted that the Pathfinder scheme would terminate on 31.12.11.

Questions/issues raised/comments included: prioritisation of areas; volunteers continuing with the work in 2012 using Council-owned premises; the involvement of the PCT; and changes in the NHS, e.g. GPs.

**AGREED** that:

1. The localism plan be approved.
2. A progress report be circulated to Board Members in December 2010.
3. Update reports be presented to future Board Meetings as a regular agenda item.

## **9. QUARTER 2 2010/11 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

J Wilson presented the performance and management update for Quarter 2 (July to September) 2010-11.

Also included was a copy letter from The Rt Hon Eric Pickles, Secretary for Communities and Local Government, which announced changes to local authority performance arrangements.

Other information included: the LAA Annual Review 2009/10 Performance Tables; the Bassetlaw Partnership for Health Delivery Plan 2010-11; and the Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership Performance Assessment, April to September 2010.

It was noted that: the Community Cohesion Group has submitted bids to the Executive Group; the Environment Group is holding less frequent meetings but has more common themes eg the Beckingham Marshes/Willow Works restoration project; and the Bassetlaw Well-being at Work Scheme is going well with most employers having achieved the bronze level.

**AGREED** that:

1. The performance and management update for Quarter 2 (July to September) 2010-11 be noted.
2. An update/progress on the proposed boxing club for Manton be provided to Board Members.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

### **10. NHS CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

G Blenkinsop presented the BLSP's response to the NHS consultation on Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health, Question 1-18, for information.

**AGREED** that the response be noted.

### **11. SUPPORTING A STRONGER CIVIL SOCIETY**

G Blenkinsop presented the Cabinet Office consultation document 'Supporting a Stronger Civil Society' for information.

**AGREED** that C George and L Tupling formulate a joint response to the consultation document.

### **12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was noted that only the first two dates for both the Board and the Executive Group could be confirmed as Council diaries for the municipal year 2011/12 are still being drafted.

**AGREED** that:

1. Dates for the Board meetings of 3<sup>rd</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011 be confirmed.
2. Dates for the Executive meetings of 13<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 be confirmed.

### **13. MARY MITCHELL**

The Chairman announced that this was the last meeting for Mary Mitchell as she retires in March 2011 and her seat would be taken over by Wendy Knight.

**AGREED** that thanks be recorded to Mary Mitchell for her input to the Board and best wishes for her retirement.

As there was no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.40pm.