

**BLSP Economic Regeneration Sub-Group
11 July 2007
2pm – 4pm
Aviation Academy,
Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield**

MINUTES

Attending:

R. Wilkinson (Chair)	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
J. Connelly	North Notts College
P. Haigh	Nottingham Business Ventures
D. Hurst	Retford Chamber of Trade
S. Oakton	Job Centre Plus
R. Slater	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
D. Watson	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
J. Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council (Policy)
S. Withington	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
J. Cox (Minutes)	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)

1. Welcome and Apologies

RW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:-

F. Walker	North Notts College
P. Altham	Notts RCC

2. Minutes of Last Meeting Held on 16th May 2007 and Matters Arising

Agreed as a true record.

3. Skills and Worklessness Update

R. Wilkinson updated the meeting on what has happened to date and indicated that he would like to widen the group. J. Wilson confirmed that there has been a complete change in focus – the two groups were more crosscutting than originally thought. J. Wilson's feelings were that we should merge the Skills and Worklessness and LSP Groups and update the membership as there is less pull now that the projects have come to an end.

R. Wilkinson confirmed that one of the key issues was around skills questions. 67% of employers interviewed said that skills were important when interviewing staff.

R. Wilkinson stated that one of the focus groups should be from a business perspective – what they want to see when encouraging people back into the workplace.

It was decided to re-convene the Skills and Worklessness meeting as this will be a recurring issue albeit on an ad hoc basis in the future.

4. Business Survey Draft Findings and Follow Up

R. Wilkinson handed out copies of the completed Bassetlaw Business Survey and spoke about the findings from the telephone survey undertaken by Ararna and the forthcoming launch of the document on Wednesday 25th July 2007.

He confirmed that, as a result of the Survey, LSP newsletters will be produced at regular intervals in line with the findings in that people would like more contact with the Authority.

R. Wilkinson stated that he would like to set up some forums to address environmental issues supported by various bodies to give advice, i.e. Business Link, Bassetlaw's Energy Officer etc.

R. Wilkinson confirmed that he is working on a programme to follow up the survey and will report to the next LSP meeting regarding this. He pointed out, however, that not everything would be focused on Worksop.

J. Wilson asked R. Wilkinson to bear in mind, when inviting business to take part, that they should be sending a more capable member of staff as this is of a strategic nature.

5. Sheffield City Region Update

R. Wilkinson confirmed that he is to attend the City Forum next week and therefore had no update but will send updates via email after the event.

The issues are transport knowledge, innovation and destination and they aim to use existing mechanisms not set up new groups.

6. Market Towns Initiative

R. Wilkinson confirmed that this Initiative has been delegated to this Group. It is a mixture with £48k allocated for this year. Tuxford Parish Council have applied for £18k towards CCTV. He indicated that he had written to all Parish Councils some time ago, to see if anyone would be interested in support from this Group.

R. Slater confirmed that there would be two applications coming from Retford in the very near future but he has meetings in the pipeline to discuss these

schemes. He also indicated that there may be a funding request for the redundant toilet blocks in Retford.

Bearing in mind that the money has to be spent by March 2008, R. Wilkinson suggested we email around to give this scheme a push. This was agreed.

7. Any Other Business

Floods

R. Slater confirmed that EMDA are offering assistance for flood damage of up to £2k. The timescale for applications is very short – up until the end of July and businesses will have to provide evidence of loss of business etc. He stated that he will be pushing this scheme to local businesses as it will not be advertised.

Workshop Master Plan

R. Wilkinson stated that the Workshop Master Plan done in 2004 was aspirational. It was proposing a mammoth spend for Workshop. However, it has now been decided to take a bite-sized approach and they are looking for Phase I to be the canal side development at the back of Smiths Flour Mills. Approval has been given to proceed with sketches and proposals for the site containing a mixture of retail, leisure and housing. When the scheme has been put together, we will look at the best way forward. We may even be able to key into Chesterfield Canal Trust visions. The aim for the scheme is to be individual but complementary.

Resource Pack

S. Withington confirmed that the Airport Resource Pack will be going out to every school and college in North Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire in the very near future. Teachers will also be invited to an event at the airport to discuss this.

S. Withington indicated that she has spoken to L. Reynolds – Directions and S. Oakton – Job Centre Plus about the Top Flight Project and getting people excited about careers at the airport. They plan an open day with free buses from Retford and Workshop. This is aimed towards the end of September.

Ask the Experts Event

P. Haigh informed the meeting of an event, staged by NBV, in September “Ask the Experts” to be held at the Lion Hotel, Workshop. This high profile event will enable businesses to gain access to professional advice from experts such as Lloyds TSB and Smith Craven plus many more. She suggested that the businesses involved in the Business Survey may be interested in attending.

Idle Valley Site

J. Wilson informed the meeting that the SSP are currently running a project called “Access Alliance Programme” managed by Star Consultants. Further information can be found on Star’s web site www.startransport.co.uk. R. Wilkinson suggested that we invite a representative from this organisation to the next LSP meeting. J. Connolly confirmed that he will liaise with J. Wilson prior to the next meeting.

8. Dates of 2007 meetings

Wednesday 12th September 2007, venue TBC
Wednesday 14th November 2007, venue TBC

Agenda TBC
Agenda TBC