

**BLSP Economic Regeneration Sub-Group  
14 March 2007  
3pm – 5pm  
The Turbine**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:**

Robert Wilkinson (Chair)	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Michael Carnall	Notts Chamber of Commerce
Phil Fone	North Notts College
Marie Silbourne	Nottingham Business Ventures
Daniel Watson	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Joanne Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council (Policy)

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

RW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Barry Bowles	Bassetlaw District Council
Sharon Oakton	JobCentre Plus
David Hurst	Retford Chamber of Trade & PDH Developments
Russell Slater	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
Sandra Withington	Bassetlaw District Council

**2. Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

**3. Theme: Skills and Worklessness**

RW gave a brief summary of the background of the current Board project on Skills & Worklessness (S&W).

PF explained the need to identify and analyse the statistics, and that they will provide the baseline from which the S&W group will work from. The statistics will also help identify gaps and this may help to identify where the group can implement a project or further provision.

JW gave further details on how skills and worklessness is very much a cross-cutting theme, and that there is significant crossover with other Sub-Groups, as well as the Board Working Group looking at 'Well-being and success of Children & Young People'. JW also explained that the S&W group is taking a 4-stage approach:

- 1) Identify the main groups;

- 2) Identify existing provision;
- 3) Map the information gathered, and identify gaps in provision;
- 4) Work with providers to address gaps in provision.

DW gave a brief summary of the main statistics and issues around worklessness, employment levels and benefits. (Please refer to point 2.3 of appended report)

MS reported that in Derbyshire there is a scheme, involving close liaison with GP practices, to help people on benefits (IB/SDA) to start up their own business.

**Action: MS to provide further details**

PF enquired if such a scheme is available, or could be made available in Bassetlaw/ Nottinghamshire. PF also suggested that this might be worth raising with Manton Community Alliance.

**Action: DW and JW to raise with MCA at meeting on  
20.03.07**

RW enquired whether migrant workers take up many of the job opportunities in Bassetlaw.

DW/JW reported that the evidence suggests that they do not, and that there are still many vacancies in Bassetlaw. The evidence also suggests that almost all migrants to the area are in full time employment.

PF suggested that there is now a need to look at existing policy and provision, and then decide what work can be feasibly undertaken by LSP/ BDC. PF also suggested that the group looks at other projects operated in other areas and what best practice there is.

MC suggested that there is a need to provide an incentive to people to get in to work, particularly 16 – 24 year olds.

PF reported that local secondary schools have very poor attainment levels.

JW gave a brief overview of the key statistics around skill and qualifications.

PF reported that there is a need to take in to account in/ out commuting and the surrounding labour market(s).

PF asked the group whether they should focus on encouraging Bassetlaw employers to employ more local workers, or focus on helping to develop the skills and qualifications of the local workforce.

MS suggested that it may be beneficial to promote opportunities and schemes to local employers that assist with helping unemployed people back in to work i.e. New Deal, Intermediate labour Markets.

PF suggested that the work of the S&W group should focus on the worst affected wards, and look at developing pilot projects to see if they help improve economic activity levels.

**Action: PF to enquire if it is possible to provide information to the group about HE enrolment patterns, popular courses, where students come from etc.**

MC stressed the need to help improve the aspirations of people, and that the group should also be looking at ways to help encourage large businesses and more technological businesses in to the district.

MC suggested that as part of the economic regeneration of the area, work also needs to be undertaken to help further develop the district's town centres.

*For further information please refer to appended report and PowerPoint presentation.*

**4. LAA Update**

To be raised at next meeting on 16 May 2007.

**5. Action Plan Update**

To be raised at next meeting on 16 May 2007.

**6. Any Other Business**

MC reported that the issue of rural shops seems to have dropped off the agenda, particularly since the reorganisation of Nottinghamshire County Council.

**Action: RW to clarify situation.**

MC brought to the attention of the group a scheme operated by Cheshire County Council where local shops are given quality recycled shopping bags to sell in their shops. This helps to encourage recycling/ raise awareness of the environment and also helps to promote local shops and towns, as well as operating as a social enterprise. MC suggested that this might be a good idea for Worksop and Retford.

**Action: Russell Slater to gather further details.**

**7. Dates of 2007 meetings**

Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2007, venue TBC	Agenda TBC
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2007, venue TBC	Agenda TBC
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2007, venue TBC	Agenda TBC
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2007, venue TBC	Agenda TBC