

**BLSP Economic Regeneration Sub-Group
22nd April 2008
4pm
The Turbine, Shireoaks**

MINUTES

Attending:

R. Wilkinson (Chair)	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
D. Hurst	Retford Chamber of Trade
J. Rose	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
D. Watson	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
F. Walker	North Notts College
P. Altham	RCAN
A. Vallance	North Notts College
P. Haigh	NBV (Business Link)

1. Welcome and Apologies

RW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:-

P. Haigh	Nottingham Business Ventures
R. Slater	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
J. Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council (Policy)
S. Oakton	Job Centre Plus
J. Connelly	North Notts College
S. Withington	Bassetlaw District Council (EDU)
T. Stockwell	Job Centre Plus

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 14th November 2007

Agreed as a true record.

3. ERDF Background

R. Wilkinson brought the meeting up-to-date with European Funding and pointed out the deliberate mistake in that it is actually a year behind the programme.

The funding will be split at follows:-

Priority Area 1 – support delivered across the whole region.

Priority Area 2 – 12 Districts highlighted as needing further help, one of which being Bassetlaw.

The money has to be spent on:-

- Basic enterprise support
- Access to finance
- Access to resources/support
- Local infrastructure

Funding has an intervention rate of 62.22% and can be capital or revenue.

Projects will be forwarded to EMDA but there will be an approval process.

It is anticipated that there will be across-border working, ie, with Bolsover or Mansfield. Money can be taken from other areas or be carried forward to future years.

People are required to sit on the Group, either LSP members or members from board level.

A report will need to be presented to the May board meeting.

Outreach workers are required. District Council and LSP are strategic partners.

4. Potential Projects

R. Wilkinson brought to everyone's attention the list forwarded earlier of potential projects. He asked if anyone had any other ideas and to get them back to him before 1st May 2008.

D. Hirst stated that he, and many people within Retford, were not aware of the Enterprise Campus project planned for Retford. R. Wilkinson confirmed that this project was a District Council project and will be funded by them. He stated that we could not, at this stage, raise expectations about something that may not happen. D. Hirst stated that people need to be included and that that was probably why partners were dropping by the wayside. He asked if he could visit to see the plans. R. Wilkinson confirmed that he was happy for this to happen.

F. Walker asked if the funding for this project would come from the ERDF pot of money. R. Wilkinson stated that he was 85% certain that it would not.

R. Wilkinson stated that many of the projects would be focused around the airport as access is better from Bassetlaw and there are quite a few good opportunities in this area. The Alliance SSP are looking like putting £1.5 million towards infrastructure.

A few questions were raised but the Group will take this away and think of some ideas.

Information required at present is just a heading in the same format of R. Wilkinson's.

5. Prioritisation

R. Wilkinson confirmed that we are not at this point yet, however, he suggested that the BSLP Group meet again in May to do this.

6. LSP Representation on PA2 Technical Group

R. Wilkinson asked the Group for their opinions on times of these meetings and subjects for discussion.

R. Wilkinson asked if anyone would like to volunteer for the role of Chair as he was finding this role increasing difficult due to his current workload.

P. Altham suggested businesses get involved with the Group as this may be a way of attracting interest. D. Hirst indicated there was little to engage smaller businesses in the process and R. Wilkinson indicated that we cannot change certain things and should concentrate on what we can change. F. Walker pointed out that the focus of this agenda was not always ERDF monies and that other sources could be involved in the future.

7. Any Other Business

P. Altham brought the Group up to date on the Market Towns Initiative and confirmed that she will speak to R. Wilkinson directly on this issue. She stated that there had been a big under spend at Tuxford which was disappointing.

8. Dates of 2008 meetings

Wednesday, 2nd July 2008 at 4.00 pm at The Turbine, Agenda TBC
Shireoaks