

**Minutes from the Airedale Partnership Board meeting held on the 8th
July 2014 at the Offices of the Airedale Partnership**

Present: Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe – Chair
William Jowitt – Associate
Ros Beattie- Company Solutions
Nav Chohan – Shipley College
Steve Seymour – Airedale Shopping Centre
Mark Turner – Pennine Prospects

In attendance: Paul North – Airedale Partnership
Andy Taylor – BMDC
Robert Brough – Airedale Partnership
Sue Caselton – BMDC

1.0 Welcome/Introductions

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given

2.0 **Apologies:** Were received from Cllr Simon Cooke, Mick Milner, David Moss

3.0 **Declaration of Interest:** These would be notified as and when during the meeting

4.0 Minutes of the last meeting:

4.1 The minutes were approved and would be placed on the Partnership website www.airedalepartnership.org

5.0 There were no matters arising

6.0 EU Funding update – Sue Caselton BMDC

6.1 Sue gave an overview of the three main strands of European funding for the next few years, they are:

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and a Rural Fund linked to the new round of LEADER funding.

Leeds City Region has submitted a bid that includes Bradford District.

Dept of Communities and Local Government are now considering the bid.

Funding will also be available for the three wards in Keighley through the Community Lead Local Development strand. These funds will be delivered through the Area Coordinators Office.

The funding streams aim to meet 4 priority areas and will be thematic.

All of the new funding is not seeking to replicate any current projects

7.0 Producer City – Andy Taylor BMDC

7.1 Andy updated the Board on the main points of progress so far these include:

- Members of the new Producer Board have been agreed

- The post of the new Chair will be advertised nationally with the aim of recruiting by September
- The first meeting of the Board is expected to take place early October
- The Prosperity Board will be Chaired by Paul Mackie currently president of Bradford Chamber of Commerce
- An initial workshop has been held with the new Prosperity Board to look at the Producer City priorities for the Board
- Brian Cantor, vice Chancellor of Bradford University will Chair the People Board, their first meeting will take place in August
- The Council's Chief Executive Tony Reeves will Chair the Place Board and is currently looking for members of that Board
- There will be a greater role for the University, the Chamber and other key organisations to support these Boards and to provide Secretariat support rather than the Council providing it as in the past.
- A Producer City fund will be created to support its work

Agreed to send our key priorities to the Producer City Board

8.0 Board member/workplan updates:

8.1 Key updates from the workplan include;

Digital – The Super Connected Cities vouchers scheme is beginning to gather momentum and receiving positive feedback from businesses

Rural - A programme is being developed for the next round of LEADER funding for 2015 it is hoped that a decision will be made by October 2015. There will be a greater emphasis on supporting rural jobs and growth.

Town Centres – Generally the main town centre vacancy rates in Airedale are keeping steady with no major trends. In Shipley the revitalised town centre partnership is meeting on a regular basis and has had its first success with the Allez Shipley competition as part of the Tour de France celebrations. In Keighley crowds lined the streets for the cycle race which passed through the town on the Sunday. The Town Centre Association is also working on plans to develop a business improvement district in the town. The Townscape Heritage project has helped refurbish Arcade Chambers on North Street and is currently working on the Jean Junction premises.

The Airedale shopping centre is experiencing good trade with a couple of high profile national chains taking up units. The toilets and public space in the centre will be refurbished.

10.0 Any other business

10.1 William suggested that the Board needs a new representative from manufacturing businesses

10.2 Shipley College – The College is waiting for planning approval for their new unit hopefully a positive decision will be forthcoming by the end of July

11.0 Date of the next meeting will be on the 8th September 1:30 – 3:00pm at the Airedale Partnership offices