

**-Minutes from the Airedale Partnership Board meeting held on the 23rd
May 2016**

Present:

Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw, Chair
Cllr Simon Cooke
Ros Beattie, Company Solutions
Steve Seymour, Airedale Shopping Centre
William Jowitt, Associate member
Wendy Spencer, Airedale Enterprise Services

In attendance:

Paul North, Airedale Partnership
Robert Brough, Airedale Partnership

1.0 Welcome/Introductions:

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given. The Chair passed on a message of thanks and best wishes for the future from Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe in handing over the Chair role.

2.0 Apologies:

2.1 Were received from: David Moss, Nav Chohan, Helen Noble and Mick Milner.
Ian Sharp (DHEZ) our guest speaker also had to send his apologies.

3.0 Declaration of interest:

3.1 Any declaration of interest would be given as and when it arises

4.0 Minutes of the meeting held 4th April 2016:

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

5.0 Matters arising:

5.1 Additional information for other key towns in Airedale from the SME Growth Manager had not been received following the presentation.
This would be followed up.

6.0 Ian Sharp, Digital Health Enterprise Zone:

6.1 Apologies were received from Ian. A future date had been offered.

7.0 Updates from Board members:

7.1 *Ros Beattie*. There is high interest from broadband companies keen to roll out better connectivity to all parts of the District

7.2 *Wendy Spencer*. Wendy updated the Board on the provision for business support at Airedale Enterprise Services. The business covers the whole of Airedale, Worth Valley, Wharfedale as well as the wider City region. They offer business support through the following programmes: Start and Grow, Virgin start up loans, LEP Skills Service and the Key Fund.

They are establishing a new business club with numerous events over the coming year and support existing businesses through the ISO 9001 process and individual, team and whole organisation training needs. They also link to other enterprise organisations through the National Enterprise Network.

7.3 *William Jowitt* – some positive news is emerging from the manufacturing/engineering sectors through the Industrial Centre of Excellence. The achievement of local apprentices will be recognised at the Keighley Business Awards on the 17th June. The number of new apprentices is likely to be oversubscribed this year for the number of businesses available, this is prompting some businesses looking to see how they can help in this. There has also been an excellent number of 14 yr old students visiting companies with their parents and considering a career in the trade.

The Fablab is now established at the Keighley campus alongside the STAR Centre it is largely used for education but is still available for business.

7.4 *Steve Seymour* – Interest from national retail brands is still there for space in Keighley especially larger retail units. New development work is still planned for the Airedale Centre. Details of the development on East Parade are still awaited.

7.5 *Cllr Simon Cooke* – Much discussion is taking place at a Regional level on transport such as the Leeds Tram/trolley bus, HS2/3, Trans Pennine links and links to Leeds/Bradford airport and pot hole repairs. Local schemes such as improvement to traffic flows around Keighley, improvements to Hard Ings and a potential eastern by pass in Shipley are at different stages of development.

8.0 Workplan update:

8.1 Baildon Business Park: Is now a third occupied with demand for the remainder high. The retail frontage is likely to change.

8.2 Industrial Centres of Excellence: Recent changes to the education system are putting a squeeze on practical skills due to the emphasis on schools to become outstanding.

8.3 Former College buildings: The Harold Town site will work alongside another developer to create a larger site for business development. Planning applications are in for the North Street site a decision is awaited. Negotiations on the Cavendish Street site are on going.

8.4 Stainsby Grange development: The Company no longer own the site. The Council through the Airedale team are supporting and working the new owners to get the site fully developed.

8.5 Keighley Highways improvements: A series of short and medium term highways solutions are being proposed to replace the idea of a gyratory,

these include adjusting traffic signal timings, box junction improvements and possible junction widening.

8.6 Keighley BID: Following initial Board meetings several ideas and projects are being worked up under key themes from the business plan including: Marketing and Promotion, Safety and Security, Backing Business and Ease of Access.

9.0 Date of next meeting:

9.1 The next meeting will be held on the 18th July 15.00 to 16.30 at the Airedale Partnership Offices, Keighley