

**Minutes from the Airedale Partnership Board meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
April 2016**

**Present:**

Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe, Chair  
Cllr Simon Cooke  
Ros Beattie, Company Solutions  
David Moss, Airedale Hospital NHS Trust  
Nav Chohan, Shipley College  
Helen Noble, Pennine Prospects  
William Jowitt, Associate member

**In attendance:**

Paul North, Airedale Partnership  
Robert Brough, Airedale Partnership  
Mark Delves, Bradford Council

**1.0 Welcome/Introductions:**

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

**2.0 Apologies:**

2.1 Apologies were received from: Steve Seymour, Mick Milner, and Wendy Spencer. Also apologies were received from Ian Sharp from the Digital Health Enterprise Zone (guest speaker)

**3.0 Declaration of interest:**

3.1 Any interest will be declared as and when appropriate during the meeting

**4.0 Minutes of the meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

4.1 The minutes were approved and would be placed on the Partnership website [www.airedalepartnership.org](http://www.airedalepartnership.org)

**5.0 Matters arising:**

5.1 Two new Board members have been appointed; Helen Noble (Pennine Prospects and Wendy Spencer (Airedale Enterprise Services)

**6.0 SME Growth Manager Airedale/Craven – Mark Delves**

6.1 Mark has been seconded to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) from Bradford Council to act as a small to medium enterprise (SME) growth manager covering Airedale and Craven.

His role is to assist new and existing businesses through coaching, business advice, planning issues, information on accessing funding, relocation, networking, product development, staff training and apprentices and a range of other support measures.

Businesses are targeted through the use of a database starting with the largest down to the smaller ones. Enquiries are followed up and supported as required. So far in the Keighley constituency 24 businesses have invested

approximately £18m, £1.35m of grant funding awarded and the creation of 200 jobs.

Following Mark's update the Board raised several questions

Q) Is there similar information for the other main towns in the area?

Yes, this will be supplied to Board members

Q) Are apprentices included in this programme?

Yes, we work with providers and business to take on apprentices

Q) How long will the funding last?

There is some uncertainty at the moment. The funds have been topped up once hopefully, this will be done again

Q) Is there a record of other funding taken up by businesses?

Not sure if there is a record at the moment.

Q) What have been the key issues so far?

The scope of grants is between £10 – 50K but many businesses want smaller amounts of money to invest so it is dependant on the size of the capital projects in the companies.

Finding quality business space is an issue, we have limited growth space available

Recruitment of staff with the right skills and experience is a problem for businesses.

Despite growing manufacturing opportunities there is a poor perception of the sector.

## **7.0 Update from Board members**

7.1 William Jowitt: There has been good interest from potential new apprentices at the open days.

Bradford University had also visited to promote Higher Education opportunities in manufacturing/engineering.

Apprentices have been finding employment with local companies after completing their training.

7.2 Nav Chohan: The Dept of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) is undertaking an area review of post 16 education and training institutions.

They are currently doing wave 1 West Yorkshire; this includes Shipley, Keighley and Craven. Various options for the future are being considered by the colleges

7.3 David Moss: Airedale Hospital has been inspected by the Care Quality Commission, with 40 inspectors over 4 days. The last time they visited the hospital was rated good.

The Tele Health unit now employs 20 staff with 5 additional ones to be recruited and has 529 care homes involved. It is a national vanguard and is hoping to lead the way on the international stage.

3.5 acres of land will be available for development now the old accommodation block is vacant.

7.4 Helen Noble: Pennine Prospects are hosting the next round of LEADER funding which has now been approved. Key priorities include rural tourism, forestry productivity, farm productivity, rural micro businesses and farm diversification.

Interest is starting to come through. There is a two stage process where thorough planning in the initial stages will help ease the process at the

subsequent stages. Dave Melling from the Airedale team has been supporting Helen on this as a member of the Local Advisory Group. Additional funding is also being sought to celebrate our woodland heritage and a Kite flying festival.

Cllr Simon Cooke: Transport for the north has been high on the agenda. Following a recent meeting with Lord Adonis further options of improved road connections via the M65 have been raised. Currently all options are up for discussion.

The various traffic options for Keighley are in the consultation stage, more information will follow.

### **8.0 Work Plan update**

8.1 The main updates from the work plan are: The appointment of a manager for the new Business Improvement District Paul Howard. Paul has now started to contact local businesses and begin delivering the business plan. The former college buildings on North Street are awaiting a planning submission to redevelop the site.

The East Parade site is still awaiting news on a new developer  
Traffic improvements for Keighley are awaiting consultation.

### **9.0 Date of the next meeting:**

**9.1 The next meeting will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 15.00 to 16.30 at the Airedale Partnership offices.**

9.2 Future dates have been booked up to March 2017

2016

4<sup>th</sup> July 3– 4:30pm

5<sup>th</sup> Sept 3 -4:30pm

31<sup>st</sup> Oct 3 – 4:30pm

19<sup>th</sup> Dec 3 – 4:30pm

2017

23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 3- 4:30pm

27<sup>th</sup> March 3 – 4:30pm