

**Notes from the Airedale Partnership Board meeting held 2.00pm 4 March  
2004 at Keighley & District Training Association Ltd**

**Present:** Cllr Simon Cooke, CBMDC Chair  
Mick Milner, Leach & Thompson  
William Jowitt, Carnaud Metal Box  
Trevor Higgins, BT  
Jean McAllister, Learning Partnership  
Bob Gomersal, Bradford Technology Group Ltd

**In Attendance:** Andy Taylor, CBMDC  
Robert Brough, CBMDC

**Apologies:** David Gates, Bradford Vision  
Cllr Lynne Joyce, CBMDC

*The format of the meeting was changed slightly to allow our guest speakers to make their presentations at the beginning of the meeting.*

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

Professor William (Bill) Boffin from Yorkshire Forward was welcomed to the meeting. Board members were introduced. Bill had been invited to give a presentation about the Advanced Digital Institute.

**2. Advanced Digital Institute:**

Bill's presentation was in two parts:

Improving links to the science base, looking at science base strengths, what the issues are, some regional GVA statistics, science based innovation, the vision for the industry and initiatives to improve links to the science base such as cluster champions, knowledge rich, centres for industrial collaboration and virtual enterprise networks.

And:

Explaining the role of a cluster champion, the strategic activity, proposals for the digital sector, the focus on the science base of the region, looking at the Regional Digital Research Institute model and how the ADI could work, what its activities would be, how it could be staffed and how it could work.

Bill also stated that a couple of other areas were interested in having the ADI based with them they were Wakefield and South Yorkshire.

The Chair thanked Bill for his presentation and welcomed Chris Schofield who had been invited as chair of Bradford's Economic Partnership to discuss links with the Airedale Partnership.

The Chair then opened up the discussion to all Board members:

All Board members were extremely keen and enthusiastic in having the ADI located in Airedale, Chris Schofield gave weight to this in his role as a Director of Filtronic as did Bob Gomersal with BTG Ltd.

Key issues for the Board are:

- ◆ What does the Partnership need to do to make it happen?
- ◆ What contacts to make?
- ◆ Who to lobby?
- ◆ Getting companies on board to add weight our case.
- ◆ It was seen as crucial to get R&D rooted in the area.
- ◆ To attract funding as a result of YF's Sub Regional Investment Plan process
- ◆ To ensure that ADI is included in the WY SRIP as a Bradford/Airedale priority
- ◆ To identify the ADI as a key project within the Masterplan and Strategy for Airedale

**It was agreed that a plan of action be drawn up by the Partnership to ensure it had the greatest chance of ensuring that the ADI was developed in Airedale.**

Bill was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting

### **3. The Economic Partnership – Chris Schofield**

Chris gave an update of progress with the Partnership, several meetings have been held and a clearer direction is now being formed. Consultation with stakeholders had taken place with many priorities identified, such as standards of education, business crime, transport, city centre regeneration, image, political and economic leadership, connecting people to jobs and land development. The Partnership was currently revising the Economic Strategy for the District.

It has been noted that the private sector seem disenfranchised from the Local Authority but this was now being addressed through the Economic partnership. It was agreed that should be continuing dialogue and links with Airedale

**4. Declaration of interest:**

Jean McAllister and Bob Gomersal declared interest in the Skills Training projects and Web Portal Projects respectively.

**5. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:**

The minutes were agreed as a true record and there were no matters arising.

**6. Masterplanning update: Andy Taylor**

The board was informed that on 7 consultants had been shortlisted from those submitting an expression of interest. The consultants had been taken on their tour of Airedale and been asked to tender against the detailed brief, which had been previously circulated to the Board. 17 March is the closing date for receipt of tenders. Tenders will be assessed against an agreed evaluation matrix and a shortlist of 4 invited for interview. These interviews will take place week commencing 19 April 2004. (Please note the date for interviews was subsequently agreed as 28 April 2004). All Board members will be invited to attend and observe the interviews. Cllr Simon Cooke and Mick Milner will represent the Board on the Selection panel.

The Decision Panel of Yorkshire Forward considered the Stage 3 funding application on 5 March 2004. Officers had not yet been notified of the outcome of the Decision Panel

**It was agreed that Andy Taylor would inform the Board of Yorkshire Forward's decision when known.**

**7. Skills/Training projects update: Robert Brough**

An interim report had been circulated to all Board members with the Agenda. The Board was informed that discussions are in their final stages to agree the contract with the LSC as well as with our sub-contractors. Due to the delay in agreeing the contract it had been agreed to slip a proportion of the funding earmarked for the current financial year in 2004/05. Progress reports against targets will be given at subsequent meetings

Robert expressed thanks to many of the project managers for commencing the implementation of the projects prior to formal approval at their own risk.

**8. Public event:** Robert Brough

The event date has been changed from the 30 April to 18 June. The Bankfield Hotel had been booked for 12.00am to 2.00pm.

Work is being undertaken with the Council's marketing and communication office on promotional activity for the event.

**It was agreed that the Board would consider a draft programme for the event at its next meeting.**

**9. Marketing/Publicity/partnership update:** Robert Brough

Mick Milner, Andy Taylor and Cllr Simon Cooke confirmed their attendance at the meeting with Anne Cryer, Friday 5 March, to update her on the work of Airedale Partnership.

Andy and Robert confirmed that they had attended a similar meeting with Keighley Town Council, The Board agreed to forward the minutes of future meetings to the Town Council to keep them involved and updated. It was also agreed that it was crucial that the Town Council was actively involved in the development of the Airedale masterplan and strategy.

A successful meeting with Council Officers had also been held on 2 March to update and make links with all interested departments of the Council.

Another meeting is planned prior to the Public Event in June.

Robert updated on the Board on links made through the LSC Co financing round 4 mainly through support for programmes to deliver Work Force Development and E –Learning Portal.

Andy and Robert have been working with Toni Halliwell (Keighley Economy Group) on working together with the Airedale and Bradford Manufacturing Alliance to produce a web portal for Airedale Partnership as part of the Skills/Training Projects.

**10. Board meeting dates:**

The next Board meeting will be held at 2.00pm on 22 April 2004 at Bradford Technology Group Ltd, Shipley.

Future dates were agreed as follows:

27 May 2004

8 July 2004

9 September 2004

21 October 2004

2 December 2004