



Coventry City Council

# Meeting Notes

Subject:	Economy Learning Skills & Employment Theme				
Venue:	Council House, Committee Room 3				
Date of Meeting:	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2009				
Present:	Carl Pearson Afzal Hussain Dianne Williams Liz Millet Jane Malbassa Mark Tovey Stan Thompson Peter Shearing Dawn Ford Steve Stewart Steve Banbury Jo Gowers Linda Cross Pearce Brannigan				
Apologies:	John Schouller, Alan Newbold, Roger Dowthwaite, Priti Bharadwa, Jane Beaver, Trevor Howard				
Distribution as above plus:					
Date of Next Meeting	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2009	Time	11.00-1.00pm	Venue	Phoenix Room, Floor 7, Civic Centre 4

		Action
1	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b> Recorded above	
2	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b> Minutes to be amended to show Steve Banbury attended previous meeting  NEETS City Strategy Meeting was held on Monday, looking at Connections to Opportunities. The LAA delivery plan was on agenda and the minutes were given to that group.	
3	<b>Employment Placement Initiative</b> <b>Update on Report to PSB on 13/05/09</b> Following on from a meeting that some members of this group had with Jos Parry	

	<p>regarding the economic recession and the effect on unemployment figures a paper was produced for the PSB on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009.</p> <p>At this meeting it was agreed that funding would be used to offer work placements for 3 priority groups– unemployed professional executive, graduates and NEET. The ultimate aim of the scheme is to support these specific groups into a position of gaining employment.</p> <p><b>Action – Jane to look at who might fit into this criteria and look at developing the work with colleagues to take to next stage - a job scheme to place people into organisations, (community programme).</b></p> <p>DW spoke on the importance of guidance from Jane and JC+, building in enterprise and entrepreneur skills and recognising trends and new businesses.</p> <p>CP – this is a springboard and need £1.2 million to effectively deliver this over the next 18 months.</p> <p><b>Action – PS would like a list of names and contact numbers, also a brief meeting when person is appointed.</b></p> <p>CP spoke about the need on getting started and to work up a business model which can be presented to the PSB in July. Post July we will require a sound delivery mechanism to support the first cohort of beneficiaries.</p>	<p><b>JM</b></p> <p><b>JM</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Connections to Opportunities – Update on Progress of Application</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress to date from sub-group established</li> </ul> <p>JG informed the group that the main criteria through AWM funding are to assist a 20% gap in worklessness, from July 2009 to 2012.</p> <p>One of the key objectives will be in supporting the third sector to deliver around the worklessness agenda. With the key groups being disabled, health, lone parents, people over 50 years and people with low qualifications. There are 3 components – organisation development strand, facilitating a step change to tackle worklessness and looking at reducing social inclusion. Further discussions are taking place to with AWM and partners to provide detail to the proposal.</p> <p><b>Action – JG to circulate the briefing note after the meeting, for everyone to read up on.</b></p>	<p><b>JG</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Local Area Agreement</b></p> <p>CP said that the updated report cards for the LAA's need to be in Friday (15<sup>th</sup>) and will be circulated to groups. This has been done and made available.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Impact and Response to Economic Downturn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• urgent tactical response</li> <li>• longer term strategy and priority setting</li> </ul> <p>The meeting spoke on their response to <b>the</b> above agenda item.</p> <p>DW related the message from employers is lack of confidence and access to finance.</p> <p>LM spoke on the City Centre – in 2008 visitor numbers fell by 6%. There are now 67 empty units and the footfall is fairly steady with the shopping centre having areas of disposable income doing well. Leisure operators are doing well.</p> <p>SS spoke on a set of challenges that need overcoming to help get opportunities for young people.</p> <p>PS mentioned that encouraging employers to train their workforce through managing budget for 'Train to Gain'.</p> <p>PS spoke on unemployment – Government funding is likely to be available for graduate</p>	

	<p>placements  <b>Action – CP would like a discussion with Coventry University on an opportunity for a joint way forward on graduate placements and use of Government funding.</b></p> <p>There has been an increase of 70% in people looking for voluntary opportunities and the challenge is how to match new opportunities for high calibre people.</p> <p>CP – spoke on Coventry &amp; Warwickshire Centre of Excellence for alternative fuel supply interesting developments taking place for energy providers.</p> <p>DW – spoke on some issues around the media coverage from our local newspaper in the private sector.</p> <p><b>Action – DW to speak to the Business group which is inviting the editor to a meeting to discuss these issues.</b></p>	<p>CP</p> <p>DW</p>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Update from the ELSE Management Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decisions/actions required by the Strategic Group</li> <li>• Recommendation: bullet point notes from Strategic Group meetings produced for distribution at Management Group</li> </ul> <p>JM – briefed on the successful 6 monthly briefing events on development in economy and initiatives at Henley. 70 people attended and the evaluation was a success, with the next event on 27<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>Working with Whitefriars on a service re-design initiative for hard to reach groups.</p> <p>2 other items – Local Jobs and Coventry Council as a LEP employer and how to deliver to disadvantaged groups.</p> <p><b>Action – CP asked for JM to look at making the links back with HR and Regeneration Partnership around the LEP. Arrange a meeting with CP, JM and Carol Jones to make these linkages and look at future employment opportunities.</b></p> <p>JM mentioned a new partnership around drugs and alcohol. Through the ELSE group a new sub-group with new initiatives.</p> <p>JC+ continue to focus on hard to help groups and maintain service. The next meeting will be attended by the Heart of England Group.</p>	<p>JM</p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items for profiling/highlighting through our organisations' communication channels and the partnerships'</li> </ul> <p>CP is keen to communicate to the local newspaper a positive approach to our partners around opportunities within the City and all other issues.</p>	
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Planner Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Development Strategy</li> <li>• Sustainable Communities Strategy</li> <li>• Changes to the LSC and 14-19 agenda</li> <li>• Single Employment Offer</li> <li>• Changing landscape of JCP Contracts</li> <li>• Growth agenda</li> <li>• City Centre Master Plan consultation</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree which items to be bought to next meeting and who will take the lead</li> </ul> <p>CP – <b>to add</b> – Development Community Strategy (Science City going forward)</p> <p><b>Action – CP noted the need for an evaluation paper on LEGI procurement project to identify any ongoing opportunities in relation to jobs and training.</b></p>	
	<p><b>Dates for next meeting</b></p> <p>21.07.09 - TBC</p> <p>21.10.09 - TBC</p>	