

## **BRIDLINGTON LEARNING AND SKILLS FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2016 AT 9.30AM AT BRIDLINGTON BUSINESS CENTRE**

- Present:** Mike Heslop-Mullens – Bridlington Town Council  
Adrian Brown – Pure Training Solutions  
Sophia White – Christ Church Community Services  
Liz Philpot – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Bridlington Renaissance  
Andy Levitt - Headlands School  
Melanie Brown – East Riding College  
Alison Gray – East Riding College  
Lip Philpot – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Bridlington Renaissance  
Vicky Neilan – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Bridlington Renaissance
- Apologies:** Chris Matson – Job Centre Plus  
Simon Thomas – Job Centre Plus  
Sue Revell – Shaw Trust  
Jayne Nendick – Shores Centre  
Julia Thompson - WEA

1. **Minutes of last meeting/matters arising**

Minutes approved as true record.

2. **CLLD Development**

The Local Development Strategy has been approved and an invitation to submit a final stage bid received. There are a number of national and local conditions which need to be addressed in the application form. Nationally, there is a push to increase outputs and the need to demonstrate value for money. Equalities is a cross cutting theme and needs to be addressed through a Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities Policy and Implementation Plan. The final national condition was to directly involve local residents and the voluntary and community sector to be involved.

The local conditions looked at several areas to cover under the ERDF element which may not be eligible for instance transport and incubation space. These may need to be addressed through the ESF. The only other condition was to address where the need for incubation space has been evidenced in the LDS. It is encouraging that these were the only areas which need addressing locally.

The next steps involve completing the two full stage application forms by 28<sup>th</sup> February. The Equalities plan, A sustainable plan and a communications plan are also required along with details on the application process and forms etc.

There is a LAG meeting on 19 January which will focus on the application process and ensuring that the LAG are comfortable with it. There will also be a group discussion on what the maximum and minimum levels of funding should be.

The group looked at the required outputs in the LDS. These are for the full CLLD area and, as two thirds of the funds are to be spent in Scarborough, the outputs need to reflect

this. One third of the outputs was considered to be achievable for the Bridlington area and it was suggested that the majority target group would be those receiving ESA support.

80% of the funds need to target the most deprived areas so there is some flexibility to do work in the wider area as long as most beneficiaries live within the target areas.

THE York, North York and East Riding (YNYER) LEP are the ones distributing money on behalf of DWP and DCLG. The Bridlington and Scarborough bid is the only one for the LEP area and the outputs have been referenced with the LEP targets.

AB asked if there would be further work done with local businesses prior to submission of the application. Especially in terms of offering work placements and support for ESF projects. The CLLD is on the agenda for the next Business Forum where more in depth engagement will be carried out.

AG suggested supermarkets would be good partners to have involved. There has been a recent surge in supermarkets employing older workers who may have retired from their first career but would still like to work.

It is expected that the time between submitting the application and approval would be the end of February until the end of April, maybe the beginning of May. During March and April it is expected that an open call would be put out for expressions of interest. These could then be developed to full application for a project start as soon as possible but it would also give the LAG an opportunity to gauge what the needs are and also the gaps.

A programme for publicity will also be developed during the final application stage.

In Bridlington the amount of grant available is as follows: £1.3 million ERDF which requires a 30% match and £1 million ESF which requires a 40% match. The question of whether a project could be funded for more than one year is still to be answered. It may be that a project could be funded for up to 3 years based on an annual performance review.

It is also important that projects not only deliver EU priorities but national ones too as a means of future proofing the programme depending on what happens at the point of Brexit.

The council is undertaking a staffing review and moving away from Renaissance and towards Local Growth. There would be a similar structure of local working groups with the main partnership board and subgroups for business and voluntary sectors. It was suggested that the Learning and Skills subgroup could be widened and almost become the local group for the CLLD. Inclusion was suggested as the title but the group felt it needed to be more direct and perhaps just be called the 'community forum'. This proposal will need to go to the partnership AGM in June but it was suggested to widen the contacts and attendees to cover the full remit of CLLD issues and priorities.

### **3. Bridlington Employability and Skills Plan**

The group discussed ways to progress this plan. One suggestion was that it needed to cover wider than Bridlington and focus on the travel to work area.

It was agreed that it was vital to involve local employers and therefore it should be a joint

initiative with the Business Forum.

**Action: LP to take to the next Business Forum meeting.**

AG offered to provide the work she is already doing on an employability framework as a starting point. A plan would be beneficial to both schools and colleges if it was linked to local businesses and opportunities.

In order to engage a wider number of businesses it was suggested that the forum put together a survey form and each representative approaches 5 local businesses to get feedback to incorporate.

AL is also keen to get more employers into the school as their words carry more weight than the staff so this could be incorporated into the plan.

5. **Partner Updates**

**Job Centre**

Are hosting a Jobs fair on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb and have 21 employers and 6 providers/voluntary organisations. There are still spaces available.

**Pure Training Solutions**

Are experiencing big demand but don't have the funding to offer any discounted courses. Will send information to Headlands on opportunities for students to go on the touch screen portals.

**Christ Church Community Services**

Engaged with 400 participants alone last year. Still running courses and developing partnership links. Recently submitted a bid to the DCLG Communities Fund. Waiting on more information before the mental health course can start.

**Headlands School**

The touchscreens are up and running. The year 11 mock interview day was a real success with 35 employers taking part and positive feedback from both students and employers. Some students even received job offers. Work is now continuing on the year 9 ambitions day and year 10 work experience. There is also a year 8 and year 11 careers event on 25 February between 5.30 and 9pm.

**Town Council**

Are linked in with the touchscreen portals at Headlands School and are very interested in the development of the CLLD.

**East Riding College**

Are hosting an open event on Tuesday 24 January from 7pm. They are also only offering courses which can lead to job offers and there is a demand for locally. They are also working with Hull University, schools and the Medical Centre to set up a health academy for sixth formers with a small amount of funding from the Lord Feoffees. This will be up and running by September and is only open to 20 students and will involve some extracurricular events and activities. This is a step towards plugging the skills shortage in the health sector.

5. **Dates for next meetings**

15 February 9.30am  
15 March 9.30am  
19 April 9.30am  
17 May 9.30am  
14 June 9.30am  
12 July 9.30am  
16 August 9.30am  
13 September 9.30am  
18 October 9.30am  
15 November 9.30am