



Representative Report to Network Members

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| Meeting attended: Enterprising Doncaster Board |
| Date of Meeting: 25th June 2010 |

Key agenda items:

- 1) Political and Strategic Context – Update on Recent Developments
- 2) Borough Strategy Review and Vision for Doncaster
- 3) Marketing Doncaster Proposal
- 4) Work and Skills Plan
- 5) Local Development Framework Update
- 6) Housing Improvement Plans
- 7) Champion Updates
- 8) Partner Update

Summary

1) Political and Strategic Context – Update on Recent Developments

The board was asked to note the changing context and challenges brought on by:

- the New Government's policies which modify national/local agencies and policies (i.e. Local Enterprise Partnerships).
- The Government Spending Cuts and their financial implications for Doncaster. There will be £5.2m saving in Area Base Grant budgets in year and it is expected that further savings will be required of £60m over the next three years.
- Corporate Governance Inspection – Rob Vincent takes up post as Acting Chief Executive at DMBC in July.

2) Borough Strategy Review and Vision for Doncaster

The Borough Strategy Paper has already gone to DtS and the Enterprising Doncaster Board was asked to comment on the approach and discuss how it can be actively involved in shaping and taking ownership of the resulting vision. Ahead of this discussion Jon Whitely (Chair) presented a paper on Vision for Doncaster. This set out how a number of factors suggest that there is an opportunity for Doncaster to *seize the moment* and put actions in place to allow the borough to prosper. These include;

- A change of government
- The CGI report
- A relatively new Mayor who wants to put the economy at the centre
- The need for a revision of the Sustainable Borough Strategy
- The need for a Local Economic Assessment and revise economic strategy
- The development of the LDF
- A revitalised and potent Local Strategic Partnership (DtS Board)
- An energetic Enterprising Doncaster Board

It was agreed that the Borough Strategy and the Vision needed to be strongly aligned and that the factors listed above provided a timely opportunity to promote a shared understanding, to focus resources and to establish practical ways to deliver outcomes. A task and finish group for the Enterprising Doncaster Board will be set up to oversee and co-ordinate the Board's input and advocate for a *Future of Doncaster Commission* which will receive evidence and make recommendations to the Mayor/DtS on:

1. What the future of Doncaster might look like
2. What are our economic opportunities?
3. What do the latest trends/data tell us and how can it be used to inform a range of activity including the next iteration of the borough strategy
4. What is Doncaster's position within the wider region?

3) Marketing Doncaster Proposal

Malcolm Cowing, Co-Vice Chair of Enterprising Doncaster and Champion for Marketing and Image presented a proposal about the creation of a new independent marketing body to deliver a more focussed approach to promoting Doncaster – the place. In summary this new Body would;

- Incorporate the aspirations of the Enterprising Doncaster Board
- Be tasked to place the town's economic performance at the heart of its future success and growth
- Emulate the success of similar models set up in Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield and Manchester
- Depend on close working relationships and cooperation between private and public sector bodies to deliver an agreed vision for the 'place'.

The proposal received the Board's support. It was recognised that the marketing would need to be 'real' and keep pace with what's really happening in the borough (i.e. not glossy PR that does not truly reflect the town or its people). It was also highlighted that the third sector is a key partner promoting and sourcing stories about a more positive image about Doncaster to combat the often negative media depiction of the town. It is envisaged that the Body and its marketing activities will be funded by the public sector

budgets (from existing budgets) and by Sponsorship from other agencies, organisations and local business.

4) Work and Skills Plan

Rosemary Downs provided an update on progress towards the development of a coherent, joined up approach to the worklessness and skills agenda in Doncaster, the key element being the production of Doncaster's Work and Skills Plan (WaSP).

In line with requirements set out by the previous Government, an interim Work and Skills Plan for Doncaster was submitted in April 2010, to cover the period April 2010 to March 2011. This plan outlines the current provision and key issues in Doncaster, and sets out the local approach to developing a final Work and Skills Plan to be in place for April 2011. The final WaSP will cover the period April 2011 to March 2014.

5) Local Development Framework Update

Andy Gutherson presented a brief progress update. Some consultation events have already taken place and the results of these will be integrated within the next LDF draft which will go back out to consultation at the end of the summer. Members of the Enterprising Doncaster Board will join an LDF Steering Group.

6) Housing Improvement Plans

An update on the following strands from the improvement plan was presented by Gary Wells.

Housing improvement Board

Following the corporate governance inspection and directions from the Secretary of State, TOR's have been developed in the event that there is a requirement for a housing improvement board that will feed into improvement actions required by the proposed Doncaster Improvement Board. It is anticipated that the Housing Improvement Board will involve key partners and agencies, including Enterprising Doncaster Board, in order to oversee and challenge performance to address the necessary housing improvements required to deliver fit for purpose housing services within Doncaster. The key issues it will consider will include – considering why developers do not seem to be developing as many homes compared to other local authorities, impact of Govt policy changes and funding cuts and implications for delivery of housing priorities, scope of city region housing agenda and implications for Doncaster's housing priorities.

Action plans have been developed to address improvements required to tackle existing empty properties, supported housing services for vulnerable people, the lack of affordable housing.

2011/14 Housing Strategy

Currently a 2008/11 Housing Strategy is in its final year of delivery. This strategy is aligned with mayoral priorities and progress is monitored via the Council's performance management framework accordingly. A new 2011/14 housing strategy is being developed. Dts Partners will be engaged during August in order to input into an initial draft for wider engagement and consultation from September. The final version is planned for completion by December. The strategy will align with Borough Strategy review process and therefore also with other key strategies and plans i.e. Economic Strategy and LDF etc. The key issues for the strategy will be: taking into account the impact of Govt policy changes and funding cuts and implications for delivery of housing priorities / changes in demand for housing services, conflict between lack of funding to finish off existing priorities vs need to develop new priorities,

It was identified that the Enterprising Doncaster Board lacks a member with a strong understanding of housing matters. The Board will identify and recruit a new member to take on this Champion role.

7) Champion Updates

- **People into Work** – In consultation with Chris Stephenson (CEN) Judith and Alan developed a plan about how they will focus their Champion role and establish good communication links with the third sector. Judith and Alan were keen to ensure that the outlying areas of Doncaster are not overlooked in the Enterprising Doncaster's Board work and that the economic contributions made by social enterprise and the voluntary and community sector are visible. CEN will support Judith and Alan to obtain feedback from the sector about the topics brought to the Enterprising Doncaster Board and to feed in the issues important to the sector. As CEN Reps they will work closely with the new Worklessness Forum, set up by North Doncaster Development Trust which brings together the many organisations which have employment outputs as part of their remit with the aim of sharing best practice, tackling common problem issues together, and developing better and smarter ways of working to help people back into employment. Feedback from that forum will be fed into the Board via the proposed new Work and Skills working group (Alan and Judith together with Rosemary Downs, Jonathan Bucknall and Helen Rusholme). Judith informed the Board that Doncaster CSEP CIC will cease trading in July thereby ending her ability to be continue in her role as an elected CEN Rep. This will leave Alan as the sole Rep until new elections are conducted to secure a replacement.
- **Existing Business** - the new government is creating lots of changes that will have a major impact on larger businesses. E.g. tax changes and changes to the support infrastructure currently offered by Yorkshire Forward and Business Link Y&H. Agencies are working together to help these businesses navigate their way through the changes. An

action from the recent iFestival is to 'break-down factory walls' and make visible all the creative, exemplar and innovative production methods and techniques going on inside existing Doncaster businesses. Richard Wrigley, this theme's Champion, will work to revitalise the borough's multi-agency innovation Group

- **Connectivity and the Airport**

- The Airport is on target to reach its projected passenger numbers.
- KINCH Aviation Services who service and repair corporate jets has relocated into Hangar 2 in the airport's business park.
- Vancouver Airport Services has acquired a 65 per cent share in Peel Airports Limited which includes key airport assets of Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield, Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Durham Tees Valley Airport. Vancouver own 80 airports worldwide and it is hoped this new ownership will create increased point to point connectivity for Doncaster opening up new destinations and result in an increase passenger numbers and development of the airport site.

8) Partner Update

Guy Gibson from Yorkshire Forward provided an update on:

- The Digital region – the planned launch events have been postponed until the system is closer to going live. The Board identified it needed a better understanding about the Digital Region and it Guy was asked to table a paper at a future meeting.
- The Business Link Y&H Local Delivery Plan for Doncaster was due at the end of the financial year. This is still not in place and Yorkshire Forward is pressing Business Link to publish the plan as a matter of urgency

Any other Business

The Board's Terms of Reference was formally signed-off
The Board will publish information about its work on the DMBC website.

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| Report author: Alan Bell and Judith Smith |
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| Date of next meeting: September 2010 |
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