



Growth Partnership

16th July 2009

Present:

Mick Leggett, Chair
Richard Astle, Director, GPP
Cllr Gavin Eley, Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Steve Clarke, Business Link East
Paul Witcombe, Relationship Manager, EEDA
Andy Wheatcroft, Perkins
Steve Bowyer, Director of Strategic Growth, Opportunity Peterborough
Steve Compton, Chief Executive, Opportunity Peterborough
Ed Murphy, Gladstone Connect
Linda Jones, University Peterborough
Gareth Jones, Project Manager, UKCEED,
Denise Bangay, Learning & Skills Council
Mel Collins, Assistant Director Children's Services, PCC
Louise Harrison, Co-ordinator, GPP

In Attendance:

Allison Sunley, Program Director, PCC
Karen Moody, Adult Learning & Skills Strategy Manager, PCC
Candice Stanley, Senior External Partnership Manager
Garin Rouch,
Moucha Bhattacharya, Go-East
Iain Crighton, Private Sector
David Strode-Willis, ARC

Absent:

Hugh Cripps, PECT
Phil Harker, OP
Colleen Gostick, Buckles Solicitors
Nik Patten, CEO Peterborough Hospitals Trust

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies:

Apologies were received from: Mark Green, Sue Churchill, John Bridge, Henry Clark, Cllr Piers Croft, Roger Hutchings, Craig Huntbatch, Shaheen Ismail.

2. Skills Agenda:

An introduction was given to the skills agenda. Adult Skills continues to be one of the highest risks to the overall agenda of the Sustainable Community Strategy. Levels of achievement are lower than national average and lower than comparator cities. It was felt that it would be useful to review work in this area to see how the 'growth' role can help to drive it forward.

2a:14-19 Strategy:

Allison Sunley, Programme Director, PCC gave a presentation on the bigger picture for 14-19 year olds and Phase 2 of the Secondary School Review.

There is a call for the education service to reflect the needs of 14-19 year olds, raising their aspirations and links to the University.

To date, statistics have shown an improvement in Level 2 & 3 before the age of 19, however, Level 4 is below the national level. Connexions are educational advisors who are available to schools in Greater Peterborough to provide the correct advice for pupils to ensure they are made aware of the opportunities available.

Mel Collins raised the question whether there were enough schools to cater for the growth within Peterborough and what follow-up procedures are in place for 16 yr+ who are out of school. **ED& MC to liaise.** Statistics show an average increase of 200 pupils each year.

Discussions took place on the need to focus on employer engagement and offering a broad spread of provisions to students making their skills transferable for employability.

To view the presentation please following the link: <http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/growthminutes.php>

2b: Adult Skills Strategy

Karen Moody, Adult Learning & Skills Strategy Manager, PCC presented on developing adult skills.

A hand-out of the draft Adult Skills Strategy was made available. The Adult Learning Skills Partnership's priority is to raise their profile.

Areas that have been identified for development or to challenge are the following:

- Buy-in and support for delivery of the strategy in practical terms: Delivery plans
 - Identify resources
- Up-skilling the existing workforce
- Up-skilling the workless population
- Links between 14-19 agenda, skills, business clusters & employability
- Links between University Peterborough, skills, business clusters & employability

To view the presentation please following the link: <http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/growthminutes.php>

2c: University Peterborough Update

Linda Jones from the Peterborough University provided an update on progress.

The new University is set to open in September 2009 with an aim of accommodating up to 4000 students by 2014/15.

A further bid for funding focusing on the University's sub-regional role has been applied for with a response expected next month.

3. OP & business Engagement-supporting the skills agenda:

Steve Compton, Chief Executive of Opportunity Peterborough provided a presentation on their business engagement strategy

On 1st April 2009, a new Economic Development Team at OP was put into place with a view to target 250 businesses, develop a business toolkit and establish new forums for key sectors.

Key areas to drive forward are:

- Develop strategies
- Identify key partners
- Share data/knowledge and experience
- Have a process for engagement with partners
- Set up an Intelligence Hub – harvest existing research, timescale of summer 2010

The meeting discussed and it was agreed for **Steve Compton, Karen Moody, Linda Jones and Allison Sunley** to review the Employer Engagement Strategy.

Steve Compton agreed to review the Business Engagement Strategy and liaise with Job Centre Plus to include Apprentice Engagement.

4. Update on work on Economic Downturn:

Hand outs were supplied showing the impacts of the economic downturn on trend indicators. Key underlying issues include an increase in burglary, increase in housing benefit claims and people seeking advice from CAB. The key indicators will be reported at each meeting.

It was suggested that it would be useful to have comparative national and regional data. **RA to follow-up.**

A bid has been put forward to the Future Jobs Fund to create 163 jobs across three of the four priority areas of the Community Strategy: environment capital, communities and inequalities.

All of the jobs will, if successful, provide meaningful work, skills and experience to the FJF employees; develop key skills required by the local economy; and accelerate delivery of the SCS and Local Area Agreement. We will then hope to launch a pilot wave of FJF jobs in the early autumn, with the project team put in place immediately after the funds become available.

RA to place the bid on GPP Website in a password protected area.

How to access the users area of the GPP site

1: Click on <http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/members/user.php> (you can also access it directly from the GPP home page by clicking on the "user area" link towards the bottom left)

2: You will be asked for a username and password, which are "community" and "strategy" respectively

3: You will now see a welcome screen. Click on the "GPP Library" link, located in the first, green-coloured sentence.

4: You will see several folders listed, one of which is "Economic Development" in which 'RA Impact of the Economic Downturn Draft report' is filed

5. AOB

No further business

Meeting closed at 6.35pm

Date of next meeting 22nd October 2009 between 4 & 6.30pm at Cross Key Homes.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS: GPP GROWTH PARTNERSHIP 16TH JULY 2009

RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	DUE DATE
EM & MC	To liaise whether there were enough schools to cater for the growth within Peterborough and what follow-up procedures are in place for 16 yr+ who are out of school.	22nd Oct
RA	Obtain comparative national and regional data in relation to the Economic Downturn.	22nd Oct
SC	Review Business Engagement Strategy and liaise with Job Centre Plus.	22nd Oct
S Compton, Karen Moody, Linda Jones and Allison Sunley	Review Employer Engagement Strategy.	22nd Oct