

Regenerate NPT Meeting
10am, 24th July 2014
Venue: Glynneath Training Centre.

Present: Councillor Anthony Taylor – Chair
Ben Riseborough (BR)
Julia Jenkins (JJ)
Natasha Lewis (NL)
Emma Wilcox (EW)
John Davies (JD)
Annette Williams (AW)
Ian Whitehead-Ross (IWR)
Tony Potts (TP)
Richard Walters (RW)
Rhysian Pengilly (RP)
Lesley Smith (LS)
Alison Owen (AO)
Sue Reed (SR)
Keith Brereton (KB)
Angeline Spooner-Cleverly (ASC)
Ian Isaac (II)
Clive Ball (CB)
Jenny Carlisle (JC)
Len Preece (LP)
Councillor David Lewis (DL)
Catrin Evans (CE)
Louise King (LK)

Apologies for Absence

Peter Hunter, Jonathan Morris, Dan McCallum, Nigel Packer

1. Welcome, introductions and Apologies

2. Group Membership

JJ explained that the appendixes are for information only. The group were asked if anyone can think of anyone who should sit on this group can they please contact JJ.

3. Terms of Reference

JJ explained the terms of reference to the group. The group will be meeting 4 times a year with sub group meetings on an ad-hoc arrangement. A weeks notice will be given when sub group meetings are needed.

The chair of the group is Cllr Taylor, it was suggested that the role of the chair could be rotated on a yearly basis. The terms of reference will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

JJ explained the specific duties of a Regenerate NPT Member and explained to the group that Welsh Government are asking for more information on the terms of reference,

Action: JJ to add this information to terms of reference and re-circulate to the group.

4. Administrative Body Role

JJ explained the role of the administrative body to the group. It is estimated that the indicative allocation for Regenerate NPT will be around £2.3 million. Up to 10% of this allocation can be used at 100% funding for running costs and up to 15% for animation of the LAG.

WG have requested that LAGs consider “brigading”, working with neighbouring authorities on the Administrative body role. There have been initial discussions with Bridgend, Swansea and Carmarthenshire regarding Brigading. Swansea and Carmarthenshire are joining together, with Swansea taking the lead.

NPT have been in discussion with Bridgend CBC who have indicated that they would like to take over the administrative body role for NPT and Bridgend LAGs. NPT CBC also be keen to take the lead so the discussions are still on-going. JJ asked the group if they were all happy for NPT to lead, everyone agreed with this. JJ explained that they are working on a number of different modules to consider.

LS, added that she felt the admin team have a lot of experience and she would be very happy for them to lead.

DL, asked if costings for the different modules could be looked at. DL expressed that he would like NPT to lead alone.

JJ explained that costings have been looked at and there are not a lot of savings in Brigading.

Decision:

Cllr Taylor confirmed that everyone is happy for NPT to lead either just as the administrative body for Regenerate NPT or as the administrative body for Bridgend and NPT LAGs,

Action: JJ to provide administrative body structure proposal.

5. Update on progress of new programme

JJ circulated a paper and updated the group. The Indicative Allocations for each LAG have not yet been confirmed. Local Development Strategy has to be submitted to WG by the end of September, JJ explained what will be included in this.

JJ explained that the Welsh Government will be holding £47.5 million back for the Rural Community Development Fund. WG will manage this fund and projects will be able to bid directly into this fund. The LAG will not be involved in administering this fund but projects submitted by local sponsors will have to show how their projects link with the Local Development Strategy. JJ explained that the discussions around this fund are still ongoing.

6. Local Development Strategy

- **SWOT analysis**

BR went through the SWOT analysis with the group. He asked if anyone would like to add or change anything.

It was suggested that the Voluntary Sector to be added to the Strengths.

LS, asked for poor computer literacy to be changed to digital exclusion.

Mountain biking to be changed to biking/cycling/walking.

Another opportunity could be renewable energy.

BR informed the group if they had any other changes or issues to contact him.

- **Priorities, targets and outcomes**

JJ explained the handout given to the group. The LAG have to outline their own targets and outcomes and these can then be linked to the outcomes prescribed by WG, the group were informed that these are open for discussion but they should not be too over ambitious and should be addressed by all projects submitted to the LAG. TM queried how the targets will be measured. JJ confirmed that this work is ongoing and another column will be added to the framework to indicate this.

7. Future meetings of partnership and sub groups

Cllr Taylor explained the change in the agenda and that too many projects were received for the whole group to appraise at the meeting. JJ explained that a panel has been chosen to score project EOI's, the panel were chosen randomly through names being pulled out of a hat, excluding those who had submitted an EOI or have an interest in an EOI. The group were asked if they were happy with this and everyone agreed.

The projects will be scored but no decisions will be made until more guidance is given from WG.

8. AOB

JJ will get in touch with everyone about the sub group meetings when they are necessary. The date of the next meeting will be on 18th September, where the draft LDS will be provided for discussion, venue tbc.