

GNP AGENDA



A New Beginning

The newly opened 'Old Market Square' is a symbol of Nottingham's revival and sets an ambitious tone for the future

It is a square and a City for everyone: a place for local people to pass the time, an open air performance venue and a focal point for tourism and business. GNP works with sector representatives from business, the community and voluntary sector, local authorities and public services to improve opportunities for local people and businesses. Together we are ready for the challenge. We are working closely

with the voluntary sector to support social enterprise activity and create training opportunities for voluntary sector personnel. Indeed, we have close ties with Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS) and Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations (NAVO) in the wider county. Our heritage is also an important local asset. We are keen not to preserve these assets like fossils, but to recycle and reuse them to meet modern day



needs. Bestwood Winding Engine House is a fantastic example led by the County Council to develop the site as a tourism attraction as well as a facility for local groups and people. We wish it every success. Cycling itself is also important. GNP and The Big Wheel encourage you to walk or cycle to work – it's far healthier and for many people it's also just as quick. The GNP's ICT agenda should also make you think about whether

you need to travel for some journeys – perhaps you can do it better by email! Perhaps that can be part of a GNP sustainability programme: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"

Martin Gawith
Chief Executive

02 Transport

04 Learning, Skills and Employability

05 Physical Regeneration

05 Tourism, Leisure and Culture

06 Tourism, Leisure and Culture

06 ICT: Accelerate Nottingham

08 Rural Agenda

08 Business, Innovation and Growth

Get on your bike!

The Greater Nottingham Partnership and the Big Wheel are proud to support Ridewise – a local organisation that provides free cycle training for Nottinghamshire residents. Ridewise specialises in providing instruction and training to adults, teenagers and children. Their work helps to get people back on their bikes and show them how to be safe and competent cyclists. Training is provided on a variety of levels, suitable for all skills – from being a complete novice to regular urban cyclist. What's more, it doesn't cost a penny to get back in the saddle!



Striding towards Walk Week 2007

Following the success of Greater Nottingham's Walk Week 2006, the dates for this year's event have been announced. Between 19th and 27th May, a bigger and better calendar of walking events for all ages and abilities will take place. There will be health walks for beginners, a new West Bridgford Calorie Map, Nordic Walking taster sessions, dog walks, nature walks, orienteering for the terrified and the popular Walk to Work Wednesday for commuters. Walk Week 2007 will make the most of the city, the beautiful countryside and the green spaces available in Nottinghamshire. All walks are led by volunteers and last year over 500 people took part across 37 events. Participants all received free gifts, such as pedometers and fluorescent armbands. Research on Walk to Work Wednesday revealed that half the walkers normally drove to work and 47% had never walked to work before. A website containing the full programme of events, walking information and advice, and the chance to sign up for sessions will be available from Easter by visiting www.thebigwheel.org.uk



Pedal power!

We all want to do more, see more, get healthier and save some money. By using your bike for short journeys you can help to achieve these things. There are lots of ways to get more involved in cycling in Nottinghamshire – and Pedals provides one of these ways. Founded in 1979, Pedals is an organisation that aims to promote cycling to the good folks of Nottingham. It also provides a sounding board for keen Nottingham cyclists and helps to give them a voice. Not only did Pedals sow the seeds for the very successful Great Nottinghamshire Bike Ride – which is now run by Nottinghamshire County Council and sponsored by the Big Wheel – but they continually strive to encourage improved conditions for cyclists in the Nottingham area. The Big Wheel works closely with Pedals, who also produce a successful and widely read newsletter written for and by cyclists. If you would like information about this group or how to join please visit www.pedals.org.uk For other information about cycling and sustainable transport in Nottingham take a look at www.thebigwheel.org.uk



Developing sustainability and social enterprise in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)



In November 2005 the Greater Nottingham Partnership began funding a two year VCS Workforce Development programme. In many ways the project was a precursor to the Learning & Skills Council's Train to Gain initiative; however it does provide an exclusive focus on building capacity and developing skills within VCS. GNP recognises the invaluable contribution the sector makes to the Greater Nottingham economy, as both employer and service provider, and also the crucial strategic links it has with our most socially and economically deprived communities. As such, the project aims to support sector growth and sustainability. Contract holders Enable, has appointed a Workforce Development Advisor to assist VCS organisations with undertaking and implementing a Training Needs Analysis using a specially commissioned toolkit.

The toolkit helps to identify the skills which are needed to support business plans and development aspirations. Ann Coxall of the Nottinghamshire Dyslexia Association said: 'the process has helped to assess and prioritise training and make best use of a limited budget for the future. It has also helped us to access free quality training and increase management skills.' The programme includes quarterly Workforce Development Forums as well as annual conferences. Through these discussions there emerged a collective desire to find ways of developing an enterprise-based income, and rely less on external grants. Ambitions such as these have directly influenced the level of training and support now available from the project. For further information on issues relating to VCS Workforce Development, or to become involved contact: lynn@enable.uk.net

The new core team

The Greater Nottingham Partnership will shortly be hosting the new Making the Connection Core Team which includes co-located staff from each of the key organisations (Jobcentre Plus, Nottingham City Council and the Learning and Skills Council)

The team will co-ordinate recruitment and skills training for Greater Nottingham employers and growth sectors. They will also help to align and maximise resources and strengthen partnerships between their respective organisations and wider delivery partners. At the same time, partners are building on the innovation contained in the Making the Connection programme so that it can effectively deliver One Nottingham's forthcoming City Strategy. The City Strategy will impact on high pockets of worklessness, poverty, low skills and poor health across the conurbation and a Programme Manager will soon be joining the team to lead on these developments. At the start of 2007, Making the Connection hosted a successful recruitment event for our growth sector Pre-Employment Academies. An estimated 150 local people took the

opportunity to meet representatives from retail, call centre, administration and library assistant courses. Partners from Nextstep were also available to provide additional support, advice and guidance under their Nextstep Into Work campaign. All places were filled to capacity on the day and courses are now progressing well. Students have the opportunity to develop the necessary skills and confidence in their chosen area before progressing to an interview with a local employer at the end of the course. Making the Connection hopes to expand the Academies so that they will be able to meet the future economic development needs within Greater Nottingham. Further recruitment events will take place later in the year. For further information on any of the above and to join the Making the Connection E-Newsletter email: mtc@gnpartnerships.org.uk



The Mitre Group are key delivery partners and have developed the toolkit, as well as bespoke training solutions for the project's VCS organisations



GNP backs a winner

The Broadgate area of Beeston has been awarded the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) East Midlands Project of the Year Award for 'Creating a Quality Environment'

The ATCM judged the Broadgate Renaissance scheme to be an excellent example of local residents and businesses putting forward ideas for the regeneration of their town centre, which were then carried forward by a partnership of Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the Greater Nottingham Partnership. The Broadgate area has traditionally had a higher level of vacancy rates and more frequent turnover of businesses than the pedestrianised area of Beeston town centre. The area was seen as disconnected from the main shopping area, with a poor quality environment, lower order retailers and a lack of attractive green space to encourage shoppers to linger. Broadgate also provides an important link to the university campus for the many students who live in the area. Broadgate Renaissance has opened up the green space of Broadgate Park to the street, creating a new 'Square': an attractive multi-functional seating

and performance area, with new street furniture, lighting and paving to act as a new palette of materials for the gradual redevelopment of other areas in the town. Accessibility in and out of the park has been improved along with major transport improvements in the area including new pedestrian crossings, cycle lanes and cycle parking facilities. The road carriageway has been narrowed, with dedicated cycle lanes being provided between the Broadgate area and the university campus. The new Square can be used for performances and events as well as offering a high quality space for daily use by shoppers, local workers and visitors alike. Already the park is being used on a daily basis by more people. It was used to hold the first Beeston Carnival in over 30 years attracting more than 1000 people and for the first time ever, entertainment in the new Broadgate Park opened the programme for Beeston's Christmas Lights Switch On event on 25th November last year.



Broadgate Park before



Broadgate Park after

Nottinghamshire STARS Awards 2007

In May, Experience Nottinghamshire will host the second annual Nottinghamshire STARS Awards at Colwick Hall to celebrate the achievements of individuals and businesses within the tourism, leisure, culture and hospitality sectors. This prestigious event will comprise an awards dinner and ceremony for around 300 delegates from these industries. A total of twelve awards will be presented during the evening, including categories for excellence in customer service, most promising student, best ambassador for the industry, team of the year, as well as a lifetime achievement award. The awards will aim to highlight achievements in skills, training, retention and service within the tourism, leisure, culture and hospitality industries, raising public awareness of these sectors and helping to generate a positive career image. In partnership with a wide range of public and private sector sponsors, the GNP will provide £15,000 to help stage the awards.



STARS award winners celebrate their win

Old Market Square reopens

Nottingham's £7million overhaul of the city's Old Market Square was launched to the public at the end of March. The new design, courtesy of leading designers Gustafson Porter represents the changing face of Nottingham and a city with growing ambitions. Redevelopment work commenced in October 2006 and was funded by the Greater Nottingham Partnership, East Midlands Development Agency, Government Office for the East Midlands and the European Commission. Gustafson Porter's design includes textured water terraces, a new avenue of trees on a pedestrianised Long Row and two new lighting features. It has been transformed into a new accessible space featuring contemporary elements including terraced seating and the capacity to stage major events. A programme of celebratory events marked the occasion, including a free music weekend featuring top bands and an opening fireworks spectacular.



Old Market Square reopened to the public in March

East Midlands eBusiness Expo 2007

Businesses came from across the region at the end of March to visit the second annual eBusiness Expo at the East Midlands Conference Centre. Hundreds of people filed through the doors over the two day event – the largest event of its kind in the East Midlands and a showcase event for learning how technology can revolutionise the way businesses work. Visitors had the opportunity to attend the conference and exhibition; learning about the latest technology developments and solutions from the eBusiness experts. Technology giants Cisco and representatives from Nottingham Trent University were also on hand, in the Connected Nottingham Office of the Future area. To find out more about the eBusiness Expo, visit: <http://expo.ebusinessclub.biz/>



Hundreds of businesses attended eBusiness Expo 2007

“Hundreds of people filed through the doors over the two day event”

Get connected

New Deal for Communities' Neighbourhood ICT project is well and truly underway. This ambitious and innovative scheme is a community wireless broadband network and online information portal designed specifically to meet the needs of local residents and organisations – giving them a voice. The Radford and Hyson Green portal is soon to be launched and it is anticipated that the wireless network covering the whole of the area will be in place by May. Not only will you be able to access the portal through your home computer (if you have an Internet connection) but you will also be able to use a number of kiosks which will be placed at various popular locations. The portal is provided by Connected Nottingham and will be branded as such.



The portals will give local NDC residents a voice

Digital Challenge – Nottingham update

Nottingham has been working hard on their Digital Challenge bid for many months but while we achieved a place in the final ten, unfortunately we lost out to Sunderland in the March announcement of the Digital Challenge competition. Nottingham and the other eight finalists will share £2million in funding and will continue as the DC-10 Group – working together with central government and the Digital Challenge winner to progress the use of digital technologies to tackle social exclusion and continue to be exemplars in this field.

Minister for Local e-Government, Angela Smith, said: “Digital Inclusion is about more than new technologies. It is an opportunity to solve problems and improve the lives of people in our communities. “All the finalists have led the way in the UK and should be seen as true regional digital inclusion champions. Together as the new DC-10 they will continue to galvanise thinking, unleash creativity and raise the agenda, both locally and nationally.” We will keep you up to date with future developments on the DC-10 in future newsletters.

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Winners announced – East Midlands eBusiness Awards

The winners of emda's East Midlands eBusiness Awards were announced at a celebratory spring dinner held at the East Midlands Conference Centre. Over 100 entries were received from organisations who are embracing ICT for the benefit of their business. The East Midlands eBusiness Awards have been designed to recognise and reward those organisations that have demonstrated excellence and transformed the way they do business through the use of the internet and other information and communication technologies. For further information, visit: www.ebusinessclub.biz/awards

“The Radford and Hyson Green portal is soon to be launched and it is anticipated that the wireless network covering the whole of the area will be in place by May”

Bestwood Winding Engine House and Dynamo House

Located on the edge of Bestwood Country Park, Bestwood Winding Engine House is the last surviving remnant of the former Bestwood Colliery, Britain's first 'one million ton pit', which closed in 1968. This impressive five storey building was constructed in 1873 and houses the only remaining twin cylinder vertical steam winder within the country, which is widely acknowledged by enthusiasts as a classic of its era. The Winding Engine House is a Grade II* listed building and is currently on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register. In order to conserve this piece of Nottingham's industrial heritage for future generations, it is planned to firstly restore and then transform the Winding Engine House into a visitor attraction by installing a glass lift to enable full disabled access and easy viewing of the engine. A six minute ride with audio commentary will display the internal workings of the steam winding engine in all its glory, allowing it to be viewed

in both comfort and safety. Next to the Winding Engine House is the colliery's derelict Victorian Dynamo House, which once provided electricity to both the pit and nearby Bestwood village. As part of the project, it is intended to convert this building into a multi-functional space for use by visitors and students as well as the local community. Once completed, the restored Dynamo House will offer a visitor reception area, a flexible space for hosting visitors, educational events and meetings, kitchen facilities for community use and a patio area with countryside views and play facilities for small children. The Dynamo House will also provide a new base for the Bestwood Country Park Rangers, locating them closer to the local community and providing increased security for the site. In partnership with both the Heritage Lottery Fund and Nottinghamshire County Council, the GNP will provide £295,000 of capital funding to help restore both the Bestwood Winding Engine House and Dynamo House.



Bestwood Winding Engine House

Merger talks

Discussions have been taking place between the Greater Nottingham Business Alliance (GNBA) and One Nottingham Business Group (ONBG) in respect of the proposed merger of the two groups. The two groups have formally agreed to merge and will be known as the Nottingham Business Alliance. A single executive group will oversee the activities of the Alliance. The Executive will be Chaired by Michael Gilbert of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and Annemarie Shillito of Experian will assume the role of Deputy Chair. The Executive comprises representatives from all the principal business representative organisations, and members from both large and small businesses within Greater Nottingham. This will give strategic representation from a full cross section of the city's business community. The objectives of the Nottingham Business Alliance are:

- To facilitate business input into the Greater Nottingham Partnership and One Nottingham
- To articulate the voice and concerns of business
- To mobilise business to develop and support agreed strategic agendas
- To ensure the business voice is heard, understood and responded to by Local Authorities and other key agencies that shape future action
- To inform and communicate both within and beyond the business community
- Provide a value for money and outcome centred focus

The Nottingham Business Alliance has a strong presence on both the Greater Nottingham Partnership Board and the Board of One Nottingham, ensuring a proactive private sector leadership and input into both strategic partnerships.



**Greater Nottingham
Partnership**

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