

GNP AGENDA

Summer 2005:
Agenda is the quarterly newsletter of the
Greater Nottingham Partnership
www.gnppartnership.org.uk



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Introduction: A Foreword from Martin

The financial year end always brings both challenges and opportunities. This year has been no exception, thanks to partners we fully achieved the commitments the Board and emda set ourselves. I genuinely believe that much of our local success is down to real and honest partnership working. GNP works with a wide range of partners from across the sectors all of whom have a common goal; to improve the lives and opportunities for the people of Greater Nottingham. I not only want to thank these partners for their hard work but

also to ask them to help us review our services for the future so that we may continue to get the best value for money from the public purse and to show how we are prepared to back local entrepreneurship and leadership with our own skills and resources.

Martin Gawith
Chief Executive



Big stir about the big N: It would be hard to miss the stir caused by the launch of the new brand design for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Dubbed 'the big N', it has been the subject of debate in local, national and even international media. The Greater Nottingham Partnership has part-funded the development of the brand over the past 18 months.

While much of the focus has been on the N itself, the simplicity and flexibility of the design in its application may have been overlooked. The design lends itself to promoting all that we have to offer: our arts, entertainment, sports, shopping, public transport, innovation, regeneration – and yes, Robin Hood too.

It is a concept that a whole range of organisations and businesses can pick up and shape in new ways to reflect their own contribution to Nottingham – or they can simply use the brand and any of the 26 accompanying photographic images just as they are – they are all royalty-free. Experience Nottinghamshire has also unveiled a new range of high quality publications promoting the city and county, featuring the new photography. You can find these at the Nottingham Tourist Information Centre.

You can find out more about the brand and also get a copy of the images by contacting Joanna Morrison at Experience Nottinghamshire on 0115 062 8312 or joanna.morrison@experience-nottinghamshire.com. For more information visit www.gnppartnership.org.uk/sats/tourism-leisure-culture

N
Nottingham



Nottingham gets connected

Accelerate Nottingham is behind Connected Nottingham – the overarching campaign that promotes past, present and future ICT investment in Greater Nottingham. A co-ordinated programme of a shared ICT vision, it exists to promote, educate and support organisations locally to invest in ICT infrastructure – with the ultimate aim of increasing ICT knowledge, skills and expertise. Working with its partners, Connected Nottingham is working towards making Nottingham the first truly connected city in the UK. In March, Connected Nottingham launched the first two of its initiatives at the Broadway Cinema in the city's Lace Market.

Connected Campus
This exciting partnership between Accelerate Nottingham, The University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University and

TeleGeneration sees the beginning of a unique collaboration to provide wireless Internet access to students and staff. More than 100 access points are now located on the university campuses as well as in bars and cafés in Nottingham city centre, Beeston and Lenton. Each wireless access point provides a 'hotspot' – an area in which a wireless-enabled device can pick up a signal. The hotspots are accessible by students and staff from both universities, and by visitors.

Wi-City
The Lace Market, an area once dominated by the more traditional crafts of lace making and textile production, is quickly becoming the city's most Internet friendly business district. Wi-City, run by EMNET, will provide the area with a genuine broadband network capable of far greater capacity than anything

currently available. The new network will allow businesses to work in ways that are impractical over the existing network. As the network develops, connected companies will be able to take advantage of cutting edge applications for high broadband networks such as streamlining communications (mail, voice, video and data) and collaborative use of software. Through the project, funding is available to connect ten buildings to the network, giving businesses access to a flexible, high speed Internet service. For more information, contact John Well, Wi-City Project Manager: 0115 9568260 jw@emnet.co.uk For further information, visit: www.connectednottingham.org.uk



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Tour of Britain returns to Nottingham



Elite cyclists will soon be flooding through our streets amid a carnival atmosphere akin to the Tour de France. Last year over 100,000 East Midlands residents lined the streets to cheer on riders from some of the world's top professional cycling teams such as Lance Armstrong's Discovery Channel Team. Why not plan a great family

day out to support the riders? The final leg of the route will visit Melton Mowbray, Ab Kettleby and Upper Broughton where riders will face challenging hill climbs before heading across Trent Bridge for a rapturous finish on Nottingham's Victoria Embankment. www.tourofbritain.co.uk



Images: Simon Bolton Photography

BEST

As part of the Skills Strategy, Nottingham's disadvantaged areas are benefiting from partners working together on a proposal to become a Test-bed Learning Community. Key to the proposal is Broxtowe Education Skills and Training (BEST). The proposal focuses on:

- sector skills programmes in health, construction and electronics
- engaging local people as learning champions and potential service managers
- a partnership with a broad range of learning providers to deliver services locally

BEST is now a voluntary sector company limited by guarantee with a board of directors representing learners and residents from the Broxtowe Estate. There has already been a big improvement in the number of learners – a trend that is set to continue now that the learning champions are in place. For more information, visit: www.wallp.org.uk and Greater Nottingham Learning Partnership: www.gnlp.org.uk

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Connected Nottingham eBusiness Training programme launch

The Connected Nottingham eBusiness Training Programme was launched on July 5th at Nottingham's Park Plaza Hotel. Over 100 SMEs attended the breakfast event to learn more about how training can help them keep up to date with the latest ICT developments. Members of this new and innovative eBusiness Training Programme will have access to Nottingham's most respected eBusiness practitioners and a free choice of:

- Executive briefings
- Technical 'how to' sessions
- Intensive three day training workshops
- Individually tailored, company specific support

And it's all free. This exclusive programme is available thanks to investment by the European Social Fund (ESF) and is limited to small businesses based in Nottingham City Objective 2 areas. For more information,

visit: www.connectednottingham.org.uk or email Tracy Williams, eBusiness Training Co-ordinator: tracy.williams@connectednottingham.org.uk



Competitiveness and Growth

S Cubed

This project is aimed at enabling Nottingham's universities to transfer knowledge between themselves while engaging with the SME business community and transferring knowledge to them too. The project will run for two years and will result in the creation of a number of learning networks.

Pathfinder

The Sustainable Funding Pathfinder Project is a one year project aimed at helping the community and voluntary sector to reduce their dependence on grant funding and to generate revenues from commercial opportunities. A new tool-kit will be developed and the learning garnered from the project disseminated to over 500 organisations.

World Class Nottingham

World Class Service Businesses aims to work with a number of non-manufacturing SME businesses within the GNP area and assist them in development and working towards World Class standards. The non-manufacturing sector in the GNP area is increasing and is very diverse. The project aims to secure the future of a number of businesses and to help them address changes in the local and global economies.

Information

For more information on these projects visit www.gnppartnership.org.uk/sats/competitiveness-growth

Big Wheel keeps on turning



“Keep the Wheels Turning tells businesses how they can save time and money by cutting transport costs – pointing out that less cars on the road means less congestion and time savings for all.”

5,000 small businesses in the GNP area have been issued with a free travel planning ‘tool-kit’. Keep the Wheels Turning tells businesses how they can save time and money by cutting transport costs – pointing out that less cars on the road means less congestion and time savings for all. Nottingham is the travel planning leader in the UK, with 80 organisations employing a combined total of 50,000 already signed up to the Commuter Planners Club. The guide is aimed at smaller companies, who unlike larger organisations, do not have dedicated travel planning staff. Keep the Wheels Turning is supported by a web site featuring contacts, links, case studies and downloads.

At the May launch of the tool-kit, in front of 120 businesses, the winners of the Big Wheel Travel Planning Award were announced by Derek Brewer, chair of The Greater Nottingham Transport Partnership (GNTP). Experian and City Hospital are jointly sharing the honour – each will host a wood and granite rotating sculpture of The Big Wheel for six months.

The Big Wheel campaign has been short-listed for a National Transport Award in Transport Marketing and Communications. The awards, given by the Commission for Integrated Transport, the Government’s transport think-tank, are the most prestigious in the transport field.

To request a tool-kit contact: bigwheel@gnppartnership.org.uk
For more information on Keep the Wheels Turning, visit: www.thebigwheel.org.uk/kwt



Skills for performance: An employer training pilot for Greater Nottingham

Nottingham’s workforce will benefit from an innovative project centred around training and up-skilling workers with low or no qualifications. The project aims to improve business performance, change the culture of employers towards investing in skill development, and work with providers to deliver training that better meets employer needs. Developed incorporating feedback from the

national Employer Training Pilot (ETP) scheme, it will provide qualifications up to level 2 – including NVQs and Skills for Life. ETPs were established by the DfES in September 2002, to test the effectiveness of an offer of free or subsidised training to employees without a level 2 qualification (equivalent to five GCSEs). The offer also included a wage compensation for employers to give

time off to train. In October 2004, GNP and the Learning and Skills Council Nottinghamshire tendered for an ETP to be delivered within the ESF Objective 2 areas of the city. GNP funds will be used to extend this provision to the conurbation areas of Greater Nottingham. The combination of both projects will enable 430 employees to access free/subsidised training. The projects commenced

in June 2005. GNP contribution of £250,000 over two years aims to ensure:

- 130 employees receive training and workplace advice and guidance
- 25 businesses increase their use of ICT
- engagement with and recruit 65 SME owner/managers

For more information visit www.gnlp.org.uk

Help for start-ups
For 2005/6, GNP has joined forces with the Learning and Skills Council via the ESF co-financing programme. Under this programme, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) will fund the delivery of 25 scholarships and GNP will fund the delivery of a further 15. Each of the 40 scholars will also receive a grant of £2,000 from GNP to help with start-up costs.

Environmental Management Systems Guide

The Environmental Management Systems Guide (EMS) for businesses has been developed and produced by Nottingham Energy Partnership (NEP) with the support of the GNP's Environment Strategy Team. Based on the Northern Foods in-house system, it helps businesses to understand, identify and assess their environmental

responsibilities and to implement measures that minimise associated risks. Due to its success, NEP has received additional funding from EMDA to transform the guide into a practical workbook that assists companies in taking a step-by-step approach to assessing and managing their environmental responsibilities and impact. During 2005/6,

the GNP will provide funding to continue the promotion and distribution of the guide to businesses within the Greater Nottingham area. Copies of both the EMS guide and workbook are available from NEP: info@nottsenergy.com. Telephone 0115 9859057. For more information visit www.gnppartnership.org.uk/sats/environment



Assessing local food producers

GNP has contributed £5,000 towards year two of this Food Initiative Group (FIG) project. The project aims to provide a user-friendly interactive database of local food producers within the Greater Nottingham area, using the Big Barn network. Individuals and organisations will be encouraged to discover

the availability of local food and to access information on local producers and their services. Consumers will have the opportunity to pay less for better quality products, while the network will provide a mechanism for local producers to market their goods to the general public.

For more information, visit: www.groundworkgreaternottingham.org.uk/fig/ and www.gnppartnership.org.uk/sats/health-wellbeing



Nottinghamshire Wheels to Work

Now in its third year, GNP continues to support this innovative project. £45,000 has been contributed towards the scheme which offers a loan of a moped to young people and the long-term unemployed living in rural parts of the sub-region lacking easy access to transport – allowing them to seek education, training and employment

opportunities. During 2005/6, GNP capital funding will provide another five mopeds, bringing the total fleet up to fifty, as well as revenue support to help administer the project. For more information, visit: www.nottswheels2work.org.uk and www.gnppartnership.org.uk/sats/rural-agenda



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