

RESPONSE TO OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF IMPLEMENTATION FOLLOWING SCRUTINY REVIEW

Title of Review:	Review of Attracting New Businesses to Rural Areas					
Timescale of Review:	February 2012- May 2012		Post-Monitoring Period:	One Year		
Date originally agreed by O&SC:	July 2012		Date originally agreed by Cabinet:	September 2012		
Total No. of Recommendations and Sub Recommendations	No. completed	6 Green	No. partially completed	1 Amber	No. not progressed	4 Red 2 cancelled

Key Achievements:

- Broadband is to be rolled out in the rural areas through the BDUK (Broadband Development UK) scheme
- A wireless solution for connection to Lound, Sturton, Idle Valley and Retford Town Centre, using the capacity of Retford Enterprise Centre is ready for delivery.
- Promotion of the First Enterprise Loan Scheme is now in place for businesses to apply for small loans.
- A new leaflet/flyer has been devised for new starter businesses and is linked to the business pages of the website
- Business Case prepared for Stemming the Tide
- Further work has taken place to improve transport solutions in the District through the Local Strategic Partnership
- Bassetlaw Enterprise Club is continuing to support new businesses and is supported by the Council
- Funding secured for the Invest in Bassetlaw project which will include promoting the District as an attractive place for business

<u>Reasons for non-implementation of Recommendations:</u>	
Recommendation	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That a rural ward councillor should be invited to be part of the Local Strategic Partnership Sub-Group for Transport and Accessibility.</i> 	In light of the changes to the Local Strategic Partnership this has not been progressed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That Corporate Management Team considers appointing a Lead Officer to co-ordinate broadband delivery in the district.</i> 	Broadband delivery is a County function so this has not been completed. There are officers who are actively working locally and at County level on the delivery of broadband.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That there are dedicated business pages that bring information together for businesses in an easily accessible format. Update Business Directory and update existing Business pages on the Website.</i> 	The current business pages on the Council website have been updated. The new website will be incorporated into the new Transactional website currently being contracted for. The information and style will emerge from the Invest in Bassetlaw project with an expected live date of Feb 2014.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That the Council promotes the take up of the existing European LEADER funding which ends in 2013 in Bassetlaw.</i> 	LEADER funding was due to end in December 2013 all grants have been awarded and extension has been given to administer the funding until March 2014. The new LEADER funding will not be available until January-2015. Interim funding has been secured to cover the transitional period between March – December 2014 for consultation with businesses and production of a new development strategy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That BDC explores how it can promote an enterprise event with the academies, colleges and the business community to promote enterprise skills and an interest in business among local young people.</i> 	Enterprise event at Portland is due to take place in January 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That the local business community are encouraged to become part of the Ambassador Scheme to work with the Council</i> 	Thinking Places have been appointed following a tendering process. Delivery expected March 2014.