

**BACUP NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM BIG IDEAS
Update**

Basic Information

Name of Group / Organisation	Accrington & Rossendale College
Lead Officer Name	Stephen Carlisle/Fraser Nash
Phone Number & Email Address	<p>Stephen Carlisle – 01254 354007 scarlisle@accross.ac.uk</p> <p>Fraser Nash – 01706 252532/07803615963 frasernash@rossendalebc.gov.uk, fraser.nash@lancashire.gov.uk, fraser.nash@regenratepl.co.uk</p>
Project Name	Bacup Vocational Training Centre
Project Start/End Date	Summer 2011/ Sept 2012

Project Description

1. The proposal is to create a Vocational Learning Centre within the Bacup catchment area to provide education and skills training for young people and adults. The project is being developed by a partnership comprising Accrington and Rossendale College, and Rossendale Borough Councils.
2. Background
 - 2.1 The bid was developed as a consequence of a call for ideas to come forward by the forum in October 2010. An appraisal process was carried out in February 2011 reviewing all bids/ideas. A draft business outline case was presented to the forum and approval was given to develop the idea further and bring forward a more detailed plan. Attached is the Business Case developed by Accrington and Rossendale College confirming financial support for the project
 - 2.2 This idea utilises the Annex, Barns and external space around Stubblelee Hall to provide full time courses in General Construction Operations, Motorcycling Engineering, Horticulture, and part time courses in retraining for a new career. The part time provision will include summer school and courses offered during traditional school holidays. Some-in-year provision will commence from Autumn 2011 ; this is expected to be in the region of 50% – 60% capacity with the unit operating at full capacity by September 2012.

2.3 An outline project plan has been developed and will be monitored by both organisations as detailed in earlier papers.

2.4 An earlier report made reference to the development of a Studio School within the Borough. Following feedback from partners it has been clarified this will not be progressed at this moment in time in order to focus capacity and resource on the successful delivery of a Vocational Training Centre.

3. Budget and Board Approvals – Accrington and Rossendale College

The proposals and financial projections will be considered and formally signed off by the Finance and Employment Committee on 21 June, and ratified by the full Board on 5 July 2011.

4. Recommendations

That the forum support the development of the vocational training centre in Bacup subject to formal approval being sought via Accrington and Rossendale College Board on 5 July and Rossendale Borough Council Cabinet on 29 June 2011.



Stubbylee Vocational Learning Centre

Draft Business Case

24 May 2011

1. Introduction

The proposal is to establish a Vocational Learning centre within the Bacup catchment area to provide education and skills training for young people and adults. The project is being developed by a collaborative arrangement between Accrington and Rossendale College and Rossendale Borough Council.

The project aims to provide professional standard facilities at the Stubbylee Site for delivering vocational training and employability skills in General Construction Operations, Motor Engineering and Horticulture. Provision at the centre will target disadvantaged young people and adults, including the NEET and workless cohorts. Programme areas offered will fill identified gaps in current provision in the Bacup area. They are also aligned to potential job vacancies locally and to common areas of career choice amongst the NEET and workless cohorts.

The aims of the Centre are to:

- Provide a high quality, locally based vocational learning facility for young people and adults in the Bacup area
- Complement existing provision as part of a Rossendale wide vocational offer
- Provide personalized learning programmes which support individual progression into further education, training or employment
- Improve the employability and entrepreneurial skills of young people and adults
- Tackle the high levels of young people not in education, employment or Training (NEET), and workless adults
- Engage local businesses and the community in the development and delivery of learning opportunities
- Contribute to the economic regeneration of an area of significant disadvantage and deprivation

The proposal is to establish the Centre on premises at the Stubbylee site . Some provision at the Centre will be offered from Autumn 2011, with the Centre fully operational from September 2012. As a community focused college, we welcome the opportunities this site offers to work in partnership with a wide range of community groups to best support our learners and the wider community. Consultation is currently in progress with the leaseholders of the greenhouses on the site.

Proposals for the development of the Centre were presented to the Hyndburn, Rossendale and Ribble Valley LEAD group on 4 April 2011 and to Rossendale Headteachers on 5 May 2011.

2. Economic Context

Rossendale has a mixed economic profile. School leaving qualifications in the district are good (68.4%), however this is not translated into strong adult skills (40% not qualified to Level 2). Many residents with higher skill levels commute out of Rossendale for employment, shopping and leisure facilities, limiting the benefits to the local economy. A large percentage of Rossendale residents are employed in lower skilled occupations which link to areas of high levels of deprivation and low aspiration.

The employer base is dominated by small businesses, which gives the economy some sustainability but at the same time there is a lack of high value major employers.

The recession has seen many business closures and job cuts in Rossendale, and unemployment rates remaining high at 8% (September 2010). At ward level there are some particularly high unemployment rates, compounded by the geography of the area and limited transport infrastructure, leading to poor connectivity between Bacup and Rawtenstall. Levels of youth unemployment are also high at 9% NEET.

Issues for the borough in terms of education and the economy are a lack of applied learning and training provision available locally for young people and adults. A key priority for Rossendale is to enable young people and adults to achieve their full potential by being able to access the right level of training and higher education and to build a skilled workforce that will attract high value employers to the area and contribute towards the development of the local economy (ref Rossendale Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2013 and Bacup Neighbourhood Plan 2010-2013).

3. Rationale

Bacup and surrounding areas includes a number of wards with high levels of disadvantage and deprivation, and correspondingly low levels of educational attainment and aspiration. The area has high levels of NEET young people and high levels of adult worklessness. Many young people from the Rossendale Valley are unable or unwilling to travel out of the borough to access further education and training. The limited transport infrastructure and high cost of travel pose significant barriers. The recent withdrawal of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), is likely to restrict further the ability of many young people to travel out of the area to access provision in the future.

The establishment of a vocational learning centre in Bacup will:

- Provide clear vocational progression routes from foundation learning to levels 2 and 3, including apprenticeships, and directly into employment. These will be in areas of identified demand from potential learners, and areas of local skill shortage.
- Engage learners currently not in employment, education or training (NEET), and particularly those unwilling or unable to travel out of the borough to access further education or training. There are currently 106 young people on the NEET register within the Rossendale area (at February 2011).
- Fill identified gaps in vocational provision and complement the existing offer at the Maden Centre, Haslingden High School and Alder Grange 6th form.
- Increase access to vocational education for local school pupils in years 10 and 11.
- Strengthen the links between the College and its wider communities.
- Break the link between deprivation, low achievement and low aspirations among young people in the Bacup area and improve their future job prospects.
- Upskill the existing workforce so that employers can grow and expand their businesses to support the development of the local economy.

4. Target Learners

The majority of learners using the Stubbylee Centre will be young people and adults drawn from the wards of: Greensclough; Irwell; Stacksteads; Healey and Whitworth; and Facit and Shawforth. . The target cohort includes:

- 16-18 year olds who do not currently progress into education or training, including the existing NEET cohort
- 16-18 year olds leaving school with low GCSE grades who need access to foundation learning programmes with clear progression routes to higher level programmes
- 16-18 year olds who currently travel out of the borough to access vocational training opportunities. This represents 24% of Rossendale school leavers
- Unemployed adults seeking to improve their employment prospects or retrain for a new career
- Year 10 and year 11 pupils from Rossendale schools who are opting for vocational programmes at key stage 4

5. Proposed Curriculum Model, Learner Numbers and Projected Income 2011/21012

Programme	Estimated Learner Numbers 2011/12	Projected Income £	Estimated Learner Numbers 2012/13	Projected Income £	Notes
General Construction Operations (GCO)	18	81,000	20	90,000	Full-time
Motorcycle Engineering	16	64,000	18	72,000	Full-time
Horticulture/Green Technologies	0		16	64,000	Full-time
Employability and Work Skills*	25	6,250	35	8,750	Part-time
Retraining for a New Career*	15	15,000	20	20,000	Part-time
Rolling programme for NEET	30	7,500	40	10,000	Full and part-time
KS4 (year 10 and 11) vocational provision	0		30	40,000	Part-time
Pre-vocational provision for LLDD learners	12	3,500	12	3,500	Part-time
Total	116	177,250	191	308,250	

The proposed model is subject to planning permission and other approvals being secured for change of use of the premises.

*Employability, work skills and retraining programmes will include a range of qualifications linked to the future development of provision at the Adrenaline Gateway/Lee and Cragg Quarries. Volunteering, Activity Leadership and Events Management are some examples. Aspects of GCO provision could also support trail building, as part of plans to develop and extend the existing facility.

We recognise that the proposed offer is likely to attract mainly male learners. This will balance the College's curriculum offer at the Maden Centre, which has a focus on Health and Social Care and attracts mainly female learners. However, we aim to promote equality of access across all our provision, and have a strong and successful track record of attracting learners to non –traditional vocational areas.

Part-time and short course provision will include summer school provision, and courses offered during traditional school holiday periods.

Most provision will be at Foundation Learning level, providing clear progression routes to level 2 and level 3 programmes, including apprenticeships. Longer term progression will include access to Higher Education programmes, including foundation degrees offered by the College.

All programmes offered will be eligible for funding via the Skills Funding Agency. Revenue for the centre will be generated from core funding drawn down for learners as part of the College's annual funding allocation from the Skills Funding Agency.

6. Capital Costs

Item	£
Establishment of GCO site	49,500
Conversion of Annex	190,000
Motor Engineering workshop	80,000
Professional fees	10,000
Equipment Relocation (estimate)	20,000
Total	349,699

Funding to the project from Rossendale Borough council of £100,000 (£80,000 net) will make a significant contribution to the establishment of the Centre. The College will match this investment with £100,000 in 2011, and with further investments in both 2012, 2013 and 2014 against a phased programme for completing all capital works.

7. Summary of Projected Income and Expenditure 2011 - 2013

	2011/2012	2012/2013
Expenditure	£	£
Teaching staff	102,000	170,000
Learning support	20,000	30,000
Technician	20,000	20,000
Premises staff	11,500	11,500
Running costs	15,000	15,000
Total expenditure	168,500	246,500
Income		
SFA core funding	177,250	308,250
Surplus	8,750	61,750

- Projections are based on highest estimation of costs and lowest estimation of potential income.
- The projected surplus will assist future investment in the centre.

8. Board Approval

The proposals and financial projections will be considered and formally signed off by the Finance and Employment Committee on 21 June 2011, and ratified by the full Board on 5 July 2011.