



Local Partnership Group Meeting 11

Tuesday, 17 March 2026

11:00am to 12:00pm (MS Teams online only)

Attendees

Chris Mansfield (CM) Bracknell Forest Council
Nancy Lalor (NL) Learning to Work
Nikki Burns (NB) Federation of Small Businesses and Bracknell Forest Skills Hub Lead
Rory Lewis (RL) Bracknell Business Improvement District
Chloe Smith (CS) Constituency Support Officer for Peter Swallow MP
Jo Gosling (JG) Bracknell Forest Council

Apologies

Cllr Paul Bidwell (PB) Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration
Dilip Ladwa (DL) Interfaith Forum

Minute	Item
1	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>CM opened the meeting by thanking all for attending and whilst explaining that notionally this was to be our last meeting, we have accepted the offer from Central Government to extend the timeframe for a further six months, to conclude the UKSPF programme. Due to this extension, we would like to hold our final meeting in September.</p>

<p>2</p>	<p>Project updates</p> <p>The Ark Community Transport Scheme</p> <p>JG confirmed that the webpage shared on the update report for the community volunteer transport scheme is no longer live. When searching online you can now just find a telephone number for the booking office.</p> <p>At the time of the meeting there are 17 active volunteers within the service. The primary reason for requiring the service continues to be frailty, mobility and dementia.</p> <p>We can offer a small additional financial element to fund for a further three months due to the scheme extension from Government to carry forward any underspend.</p> <p>Action - JG will confirm with the Ark when the webpage issue has been rectified.</p> <p>Bracknell Forest Vision 2050</p> <p>CM described the vision's creation through consultation with residents and stakeholders, culminating in a successful launch event at Bucklers Park in January.</p> <p>The vision outlines aspirations for Bracknell Forest over the next 25 years, focusing on health, economy, well-being, and the physical environment, building on existing community strengths.</p> <p>CM noted that while the vision's development phase is complete, there will be annual reviews to monitor progress and impact to ensure continued relevance.</p> <p>Bracknell Forest vision 2050 Bracknell Forest Council</p> <p>Berkshire Prosperity Board</p> <p>CM explained about the six local authority geographies within Berkshire are working increasingly together, in terms of the future prospect of devolved local government structures. There is more focus on economic development and inward investment activity.</p> <p>Browse meetings - Berkshire Prosperity Board Bracknell Forest Council</p>
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Cultural Programme

JG gave a summary of the successful School Christmas Carol concert held in The Lexicon, last December.

Talks are currently taking place with Bracknell Rugby Club and South Hill Park to extend the lantern parade for the White Ribbon event, to their grounds.

Additionally, during the 16 days of activism in November, we are planning to hang sixteen portraits of Bracknell male allies. Please do offer suggestions of candidates or consider volunteering yourself. CM highlighted we also supported both South Hill Park for their Wilde Week event and the Community Strategy within this programme. Forthcoming events are now in the stages of securing sponsorship and external funding to ensure these popular community celebrations can continue.

[Learn about White Ribbon Day — White Ribbon UK](#)

Bracknell Forest Skills Hub

CM expressed his gratitude to NB for her drive to deliver the project from concept to fruition. The Skills Hub is concluding at the end of March 2026 due to funding limitations.

Both NB and CM are optimistic and hopeful that the Skills Hub will act as a template for future initiatives or opportunities utilising other funding grants and outlets, as the appetite and demand was evident locally. NB reported positive responses from the market, Parliament and career seekers.

Due to the success of this project, the opportunity was identified by the Department of Work and Pensions as a catalyst for the Youth Employment Hub that is now operational within the Open Learning Centre and supporting the 18 to 24 age demographics currently in receipt of Universal Credit.

<p>3</p>	<p>UKSPF Reporting and Forecast Update</p> <p>CM provided a financial update, confirming that we have a small amount of the budget to carry forward into the next 6 months. We have a focus project NEET 16- to 17-year-olds working with Learning to work. This cohort should still be in education until 18 years of age. This is working with education providers to establish a clear path back education which is where they should be. We are supporting Ark Community Volunteer Transport for a further quarter (April-June).</p> <p>CM reported that we have a capital allocation to carry forward new public realm works at the new medical facility in the town centre, which is preferable to complete in the warmer and drier months.</p> <p>CM emphasised the importance of the Local Partnership Group in providing input, and we welcome any comments or questions that arise from our final forthcoming concluding report. CM thanked everyone for their time, efforts and continued support.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Proposed Final Meeting Date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues 22 September 2026 11:00am – 12:00pm