

## Derbyshire Dales & High Peak Local Strategic Partnership

### Summary of Partner Activity to help residents and businesses during the Recession

#### High Peak Borough Council

- Created a dedicated webpage: <http://www.highpeak.gov.uk/recessionhelp/> to provide information for residents about help available during the recession
- The website also signposts residents and businesses to support and advice available in the area including advice for people thinking of starting a business or social enterprise in the High Peak, access to a free service to search for and market commercial property and advice on managing money, saving energy and managing debt
- Provide support to tourism businesses through the Destination Management Partnership including web based advertising; PD marketing campaigns and free ICT training
- Regularly monitoring unemployment rates, the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training, incapacity and no. of new business start-ups in the area
- Work with partners to bring a range of free locally based business events and workshops to the area covering: marketing; managing risk and cashflow; business planning; financial planning; managing money and completing tax forms and events promoting sustainable construction (to allow construction firms to explore the business case for renewable technologies)
- Supporting and participating in partnership initiatives including the Peak District Rural Action Zone, Peak District LEADER programme providing grant assistance to new and existing small businesses, Redundant Buildings Grant Scheme, Business Link's "Ride out the Recession" events and the development of the Derbyshire Market Towns Project delivering 'Retail Survival' workshops to businesses in the area
- Assisting businesses to access grants available via Business Link resulting in one Buxton business accessing grant in excess of £100,000 earlier this year
- The October round of Area Forums will focus on providing advice and information through a "marketplace" style event from a range of services and other agencies including: Jobcentre Plus; High Peak Community Housing for information about the Home Options choice based lettings scheme and Homelessness services; High Peak Borough Council's Benefits Team, Citizens Advice Bureau and the High Peak Community Safety Partnership
- Agreed funding to support the cost of a feasibility study for a Derbyshire wide credit union as part of the Derbyshire Financial Inclusion Strategy
- Working with Derbyshire County Council and Jobcentre Plus to develop a programme to tackle worklessness in the area. Funding is currently being sourced to deliver a two / three year initiative covering the whole of the district but targeting particular wards with high levels of unemployment, particularly youth unemployment and increasing numbers of young people not in employment, education or training. The aim is to give a 'leg - up' to these harder to reach groups during recession and its aftermath
- Working with town centre partnerships to improve the public realm within town centres to make them attractive places for businesses to invest and ensure that there are appropriate sites where existing business can grow and prosper
- Examining the feasibility of building business incubator units in Buxton and working to secure Goyt Bridge which will support the expansion of Bingswood Industrial estate in Whaley Bridge to encourage business growth and inward investment
- Delivering key regeneration projects in Buxton and Glossop to support longer term job growth and role of these towns as key service centres
- Working with the Commission for Rural Communities policy advice team and Action for Market Towns to improve understanding of the impact of recession on rural areas and lobby for access to Government programmes which have previously been restricted to inner city/coalfield areas

**Derbyshire  
Dales District  
Council**

- Launched a free debt advice service for residents in partnership with the Citizen's Advice Bureau
- Brought forward an additional £1m in improvements to public conveniences and other District Council properties
- Investing, with partners £12m in the new Central Area Leisure Centre development (£7m from the District Council) due to start on site this autumn
- Frozen car park charges for a year
- Doubled spending on affordable housing to £1.6m this year
- Established a dedicated page on our website to promote local business support events and other help available locally, regionally and nationally at: [http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/community\\_and\\_public\\_safety/recession](http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/community_and_public_safety/recession)
- Where appropriate the District Council buys from local firms e.g. the affordable housing development currently underway on Bakewell Road, Matlock has led to approx. £500,000 being pumped back into the local economy
- Paying invoices generally within 13 days of receipt and working to improve this
- Secured funding to undertake a programme of works due to commence in February 2010 to enhance the public realm of Matlock and enable the town to benefit more readily from the future upturn in the local economy
- Promoting the Source Derbyshire website to local firms which details new contract opportunities
- Produced a "How to do business with the Council" guide
- Produced additional publicity and information on small business rate relief encouraging more local firms to apply
- Agreed funding to support the cost of a feasibility study for a Derbyshire wide credit union as part of the Derbyshire Financial Inclusion Strategy
- Worked with the Peak District and Derbyshire Destination Management Partnership to promote tourism, a major contributor to the local economy and support tourism businesses
- Supporting and participating in partnership initiatives including the Peak District Rural Action Zone, Peak District LEADER programme (chaired by DDDC) providing grant support to new and existing small businesses, Redundant Buildings Grant Scheme (seven projects so far assisted in the Derbyshire Dales), Business Link's "Ride out the Recession" events at Ashbourne and Rowsley and the development of the Derbyshire Market Towns Project which has delivered a 'Retail Survival' workshop to businesses in the Matlock, Darley Dale and Bakewell area
- Facilitated the Cawdor Quarry re-development in Matlock (inc. new Sainsbury's superstore, town centre relief road, new transport interchange and car park)
- Supported the development of the LEVEL Centre at Rowsley providing training and workspace for rural creative businesses and learning disabled people
- Other ongoing activity including providing CCTV in our market towns and keeping the majority of our roads litter free ensuring the area remains attractive for investment, tourism and trade

<b>Peak District National Park Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investing £145 000 per year for 3 years in the <i>Live and Work Rural</i> programme which will offer in total £1.24M of support to Peak District businesses and communities over the next 3 years</li> <li>• Supporting and participating in partnership initiatives including the Peak District Rural Action Zone, Peak District LEADER programme providing grant assistance to new and existing small businesses and Redundant Buildings Grant Scheme</li> <li>• Supporting the Peak District and Derbyshire Destination Management Partnership which provides direct support to tourism businesses</li> <li>• Supporting as a leading partner the Peak District Land Management Advisory Service alongside agencies such as Environment Agency and Natural England that collectively leverages in approx. £8M a year in agri-environment schemes</li> <li>• Operating a procurement strategy which encourages sustainable procurement and considers the needs of smaller suppliers in the local and regional economy increasing their access to a range of work such as for trees and woodlands, construction and maintenance and supplying interpretation and other specialist services</li> <li>• A commitment to meet, and where possible, exceed our targets for paying all invoices on time and especially when dealing with local suppliers and making payments quickly when requested by suppliers in known cases of hardship</li> <li>• Recently secured investment from Cycling England on a major project in the Peak District and are finalising details of the Moorlife European funded project, both of which will involve letting contracts over the next three to five years</li> </ul>
<b>Derbyshire Dales CVS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Running a Signposting and Support Project providing support to families in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales who are having problems. The project covers a wide range of issues but much of the work is around debt counselling, benefits advice and housing</li> <li>• Delivering a Community Development project in Hurst Farm, Matlock including the promotion of employment opportunities at Hurst Farm Community Association and providing training and support with confidence building and basic skills</li> </ul>
<b>Connexions Derbyshire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a series of new activities to support more young people in the Derbyshire Dales not in employment, education or training and working with the LSC to increase provision locally, building on previous work in the Matlock area</li> <li>• Providing additional resources to tackle the issue in the High Peak area for the next twelve months</li> </ul>
<b>DRCC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRCC – (shortly to become Rural Action Derbyshire) - is the local delivery agency for (Capacity builders) funding to help third sector agencies most likely to see an increase in demand as a result of the recession e.g. – those working in the fields of debt advice, training and skills development, health and social care. The first funding round awarded 15 grants in Derbyshire of which four are HP or DD based</li> <li>• DRCC is a partner in the Derbyshire Financial Inclusion partnership which has developed a financial inclusion strategy for the County which aims to bring a range of agencies together to address: financial literacy; access to banking services / affordable credit and debt advice</li> </ul>
<b>Derbyshire County PCT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derbyshire County PCT is also a partner in the Derbyshire Financial Inclusion partnership and has contributed £8,000 to support the cost of a feasibility study for a Derbyshire wide credit union. Glossop &amp; Tameside PCT have also agreed to contribute £1,000</li> </ul>

**East  
Midlands  
Business Ltd.  
(Business  
Link)**

- Organised and delivered a series of “Ride out the Recession events” across the LSP area providing advice and support to businesses on: cash flow management; employment law; marketing and how technology can reduce costs. The events were accompanied by a mini exhibition showcasing local publicly funded business support programmes and support available from local authorities
- Events to assist businesses tender for public sector contracts are currently taking place (see website link below) and a further programme of events is to be announced shortly
- Made available grant funding for clients to bring in outside practical expertise to help take stock of their business and plan a way forward
- Helped clients access government supported initiatives, such as the Enterprise Finance Guarantees Scheme and Transition Loan Fund.
- Providing a free business “Health check”
- Offering support from an experienced advisor to businesses experiencing difficulty with banking / funding issues
- Tailoring existing services to better meet the needs of businesses during the recession including updating the Business Link Website: [www.eastmidlandsbusiness.co.uk/](http://www.eastmidlandsbusiness.co.uk/) to include tools covering the following:
  - Online Business Health check Tool
  - 10 ways to deal with debt
  - Preventing Late Payment
  - Managing Cash flow
  - Manage a Business during a Recession
  - Improve the Performance of your staff
  - 10 ways to keep ahead of the competition