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CONFIRMED Key Decision/Action Points from Board

(Tuesday, 26 September, 2017)



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D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, 26 September, 2017

Nottingham City Council, Loxley House, Station Street Nottingham NG2 3NG

Chair Peter Richardson
Minutes Sally Hallam

1. Present and Apologies

D2N2 Board Members in Attendance

Cllr Roger Blaney	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Cllr Kay Cutts	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Jon Collins	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Ann Syrett	Bolsover DC (sub for Cllr Bob Wheeler)
Andrew Pickin	Business Representative
Peter Gadsby	Business Representative
Ian Morgan	Business Representative
Jane Howson	VCS Representative
David Williams	Business Representative
David Williams (Geldards)	Business Representative
Prof Edward Peck	H E Representative
Andrew King	sub for F E Representative

Also in attendance

Scott Knowles	East Midlands Chamber Chief Executive
Anthony May	Nottinghamshire County Council CEO
Ian Curryer	Nottingham City Council CEO



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Mike Ashworth	Derbyshire County Council
Paul Robinson	Derby City Council CEO
Andrew Muter	Newark and Sherwood District Council CEO
Justin Homer	BEIS (sub for Area Director)
Dan Swaine	NEDDC/Bolsover DC (sub for Frank McArdle S Derbyshire DC)

Officer Support

David Ralph	Chief Executive, D2N2 LEP
Matthew Wheatley	Growth Plan Manager
Lindsay Allen	Senior Programme Manager, D2N2 LEP

Guest speakers

Dr Paula Black	Nottingham Civic Exchange
Will Rossiter	Nottingham Trent University

Apologies

These were received from Board members Melanie Ulyatt, Cllr Barry Lewis and Cllr Ranjit Banwait, as well as from Cllr Bob Wheeler and Dawn Ward. The latter two members sent substitute representatives in their place.

1.1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, extending a particular welcome to Cllr Ann Syrett deputising for the first time for Cllr Wheeler.

1.2 Declarations of Interest

None received.

1.3 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July, 2017 were approved as a true record.

On matters arising, David Ralph reported that Melanie Ulyatt had circulated the report referred to under the Skills item, whilst Growth Hub representatives had undertaken a conversation with Derbyshire representatives.

There were no other matters arising other than those already covered on the agenda.

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2. Updates for Information

2.1 Chair's Report

The Chair introduced his report to the meeting. In Melanie Ulyatt's absence, he asked Scott Knowles to provide a short summary of statistics reflecting the state of the local economy. SK reported that the broad picture continued to show an adaptable business community with continued growth documented in domestic markets, increases in export sales compared to the second quarter of the year and positive business confidence reported overall.

David Williams (Geldards) then spoke to his report on the review of the LEP, drawing attention to the main points shown in his summary. Overall there was general satisfaction with the performance of the LEP but a consensus that it lacked focus as to its strategic aims. To this end, it was proposed to hold an Away Day workshop to identify LEP priorities for the next few years within the national context. Proposed dates were already in circulation and this would be confirmed shortly.

On private-sector Board recruitment, the Chair reported that activity had been ongoing over the summer, with a number of meetings having been held although no appointments made as a result. It was hoped that an approach to a major local company to consider putting forward a candidate would result in an appointment in the near future. In the meantime, members were asked to continue to canvas any contacts who might be interested in applying and to encourage them to do so.

Board NOTED the report.

ACTION: DR to set up a facilitated Board Away Day by the end of November.

3. Items for Decision

3.1 Chief Executive's Report

David Ralph introduced his report before handing to Matthew Wheatley to talk specifically to elements of the SEP refresh papers. He reminded Board that the process was now at the end of evidence-gathering and moving towards consultation before the refreshed plan's final publication in early 2018.

MW referred to the attachments presented with the report, copies of which would be published on the D2N2 website for reference. He reminded Board of the previously highlighted challenge of increasing productivity in the D2N2 area and referred to one element of the SEP refresh work, namely a 'deep dive' exercise that had been undertaken looking at inclusive growth. The results of this would shortly be presented by guest speakers. As part of the consultation phase an hour's 'workshop' would then be allocated within the next Board meeting to identify the priorities to focus on in producing the final refreshed SEP. He asked members to watch the presentation and consider the use of inclusive growth as a framework concept for strategic planning.



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Dr Paula Black of Nottingham Civic Exchange and Will Rossiter of Nottingham Trent University then delivered a short presentation.

Board NOTED the report and RECEIVED the presentation.

4. Standing Items – Updates

4.1 Skills

In Melanie Ulyatt's absence, David Ralph introduced a report updating Board on Skills work currently being undertaken. He reminded Board that one of the five initial targets for the original SEP had been to achieve a step change in skills across the board. The LEP was now working with the Skills Commission in an inclusive forum towards this goal. The Skills Commission had met recently and identified three specific issues on which to focus:

- (i) the development of a robust plan for the second half of the ESF programme and the challenges of match-funding for it
- (ii) making reasonable progress on employability in schools, working in partnership with the CEC
- (iii) activity resulting directly from the creation of Institutes of Technology

On employability in schools, DR informed Board that a roundtable with upper tier authorities would be needed to identify how best to take plans forward.

Board NOTED the report.

ACTION: Commissioning Framework for ESF programme to be presented to the November ESIF committee (KW)

ACTION: Actions from CEC six-monthly review to be circulated to upper tier partners (DR)

4.2 D2N2 Business Growth Hub Update Report

David Williams spoke briefly to the report updating members on developments and progress made in the D2N2 Growth Hub. Attention was focusing on streamlining and simplifying programmes to improve service function by aligning local delivery with D2N2 delivery.

Specific reference was also made to the imminent launch of the £120m Midlands Engine Investment Fund, which included an allocation of £30m for small business loans.

Board NOTED the developments with Growth Hub and the emerging focus on productivity from BEIS at a national level

Board further NOTED the activity report in section 5 of the report.

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4.3 (i) and (ii) Enterprise Zone Nottingham and Derby

Peter Gadsby introduced an update report covering progress in the Enterprise Zone and invited any comments from Board.

Board NOTED the report.

4.3 (iii) EZ Markham Vale

In the absence of Cllr Lewis, Mike Ashworth introduced the report updating Board on continued progress with Markham Vale and the Enterprise Zone in general. Overall he reported continued strong progress, repeat customers and evidence of good market confidence. The issue of business rate growth benefits going to SCR not Derbyshire remained unresolved.

The Chair indicated that he would speak further with Cllr Lewis to see if a way could be identified to move this on satisfactorily now.

Board NOTED the report.

4.4 GPF Report Capital Projects

Cllr Collins presented a report updating Board on the status of the Growing Places Fund (GPF) programme.

Board NOTED the overall progress and status of projects including due diligence

Board AGREED to the request for loan repayment referral referred to in the report.

4.5 Infrastructure and Investment Board report

In the absence of Cllr Lewis, Mike Ashworth introduced the report updating Board on the July and September IIBs. He mentioned in particular approval that had been given to revised assurance processes as part of the review of governance.

David Ralph informed Board that the Senior Manager vacancy for Capital Projects had now been offered to Sajeeda Rose, who would commence employment in early November. This would greatly aid the LEP's capacity to manage the process more robustly.

Board RECEIVED the project updates and the high risk report, together with an update on the budget, Quarter 1 monitoring, change of outputs for the Foundry Park project and approvals of the A52 Wyvern and Sherwood Energy Village projects.

4.6 HS2 Update report

David Ralph introduced a report covering future steps following the eventual launch of the East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy. Board was asked to endorse the application to the HIF for £99m towards supporting early infrastructure to support delivery of some 17,000 homes across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Board NOTED the report and ENDORSED the action to submit an expression of interest.



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5. Any Other Business

None.

6. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 8 November, 2017 (11.00 am – 1.00pm)

Venue: Derby Arena Velodrome, Derby