

## **Item 1.3: CONFIRMED Key Decision/Action Points from Board**

### **D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING**

Thursday 19 December, 2019

Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7HY

Chair Elizabeth Fagan  
Minutes Sally Hallam

#### **1. Present and Apologies**

##### **D2N2 Board Members in Attendance**

Graham Cartledge	Business Representative
Paul Harris	Business Representative
Jane Howson	VCS Representative
Jayne Mayled	Business Representative
Cllr Chris Poulter	Derby City Council
Cllr Simon Robinson	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Viv Russell	Business Representative
Karen Smart	Business Representative
Cllr Martin Thacker	NE Derbyshire District Council
Viv Russell	Business Representative
David Williams	Business Representative
David Wright	Area Lead D2N2, BEIS

##### **Also in attendance**

Scott Knowles	East Midlands Chamber CEO
Robert Dixon	sub for Nottingham City Council CEO
Kath Marriott	Rushcliffe Borough Council CEO
Dan Swaine	Joint CEO Bolsover and N E Derbyshire DCs

##### **Officer Support**

Sajeeda Rose	Chief Executive, D2N2
Tom Goshawk	Head of Capital Programmes, D2N2
Rachel Quinn	Head of People and Skills, D2N2
Rob Harding	Head of Communications and Marketing, D2N2
Luke Stott	Communications and Marketing Officer, D2N2
Natalie Gasson	Head of Operations, D2N2
Sarah Wainwright	Derbyshire County Council Snr Accountant and D2N2 Monitoring Officer
Paul Stone	Representing S151 Officer

## **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Board members Cllrs Lewis, Mellen and Cutts, Emma Rigler, Prof Mitchell and Dawn Ward. From the supporting officers, apologies were received from Anthony May, Ian Curryer and Carole Mills.

### **1.1 Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting

### **1.2 Declarations of interest**

The Chair reminded all Members that Declarations of Interest should be stated to be recorded where an interest arose.

No declarations were made.

### **1.3 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 September, 2019 were confirmed as a true record.

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

## **2. Local Industrial Strategy Arup presentation**

The Chair introduced a presentation by Joanna Rowelle and Vicky Evans of consultants, Arup on the work completed to date to shape the vision for the LEP's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).

Elizabeth Fagan prefaced the introduction by highlighting to Board members the critical importance of getting the overview plan in front of key Ministers in the new Government as a priority in the New Year.

JR and VE delivered a joint presentation, inviting comment and discussion as they progressed. Board was given a summary of the thinking to date which would inform the drafting of the final Strategy document. A draft version would be circulated as soon as possible in the New Year. The Strategy would include a number of overarching guiding principles, designed to tie in with the five pillars of government strategy on Place. Underpinning the guiding principles would be place-specific highlights – 'propositions' – based on evidence collected during the previous two-month consultation period.

The consultants sought constructive comments and confirmation that the work was progressing in the desired direction.

Discussion took place between sections of the presentation, out of which the following feedback was provided:

1. Board recognised that this work to shape an Industrial Strategy for the D2N2 area was an exercise currently being replicated around the country by other LEPs. There was concern therefore that the finished strategy should accurately demonstrate the potential for development throughout the D2N2 area and, crucially, that the finished document should be drafted in a way that made it stand out from the rest.

2. The summary narrative was accepted as a baseline starting point, but the finished Strategy document would need to be less generic and should include tailored examples to enrich the pitch and make the narrative appropriately compelling.
3. Notwithstanding 2 above, it was recognised that many of the suggested 'propositions' were region-wide and some examples would benefit some areas more than others. Appropriate examples should therefore be added to give a feel of the intended benefit or outcome of the Strategy. It should not become a list of proposed projects. David Wright for BEIS commented that for central Government, what was to happen where and to what timescale would have greater impact than specific named examples.
4. In response to references to connectivity in deprived areas, the need to improve general connectivity throughout D2N2, both E-W and N-S was highlighted strongly for the final draft.
5. Feedback from business leaders had consistently shown the persistence of the skills gap in this area. The final LIS should show proposed measures to address this, such as the early years interventions identified from the work of D2N2's People and Skills Board.

The Chair thanked the presenters.

Board **AGREED** a two-stage approach to producing the final Strategy: a completed overview to be brought to the next meeting on 31 January, 2020, with a final full version submitted to Government by April, 2020.

### **3. Items for Strategic Discussion**

#### **3.1 Chair's Report**

The Chair presented her report updating Board on a number of developments since the last Board, including:

- a) Advisory Board Updates
- b) Implementation of the LEP review update
- c) Marketing and Communications update
- d) Update from the LEP Chairs Network meeting.

The Chair invited the respective Advisory Board Chairs to provide a verbal update to supplement the published notes.

For the Place Board, Chair David Williams reported some frustration that a final agreed list of projects had not yet been reached. The next meeting of the Place Board on 9 January, 2020 would need to address this in order to have the information for inclusion in the final draft LIS next month.

For the Innovation Board, Chair Paul Harris reported that the group had reflected on what had been included in early versions of the draft LIS and had focused in particular on two areas for input, namely innovation 'for a purpose' (with specific economic benefit) and public/private sector collaboration around innovation in areas such as social care.

For the Business Growth Board, Chair Viv Russell reported that from the task and finish groups had come a working definition of productivity based on GVA by the hour.

For the People and Skills Board, Jane Howson reported that in line with existing LIS feedback data, work had been ongoing to align priorities and in particular to put in place support from primary school onwards. This work would be further supported now that inclusion representatives were in place.

On completion of the LEP review, the Chair informed Board that she and the Deputy Chair

had been in talks with a number of private-sector representatives and hoped to have a final business representative appointed to the Board early in 2020.

Elizabeth Fagan thanked the executive team for a successful Annual Conference. She confirmed to Board that more work was to be done to get the message out to the public in the New Year, with the new website hopefully to be completed in the first quarter of 2020.

The Chair reported to members on the recent meeting of the LEP Chairs Network group, which had considered making the Network a governing body. Whilst this had been felt to be unnecessary since LEPs were already governed by BEIS, the need for strong governance had nevertheless been agreed and work was ongoing to shape the role of the Network going forward.

Board **NOTED** the report.

### **3.2 Chief Executive's Report**

Sajeeda Rose presented her report updating Board on a number of items including:

- a) Staffing Update
- b) Local Industrial Strategy inc Arup report
- c) Mid-year and Annual Performance Review
- d) Growth Hub and Brexit Support
- e) ESIF Update

and referred members to the detailed notes under each item.

Board was advised that all appointments had now been made to the new staff structure and a full team would be in place from February, 2020.

D2N2's Annual Performance Review by BEIS would be taking place on 23 January, 2020 and feedback would be provided to the next Board meeting.

Good progress had been made with committing most of the European funding and work was under way with neighbouring LEPs to try to secure further funding from the national pot.

The Chief Executive also highlighted ongoing work to promote funding calls to rural businesses around the region, which was being well received with events being fully supported with attendances.

Board **NOTED** the report.

### **3.3 Policy Update from BEIS**

David Wright was invited to give a verbal policy update to the Board.

He reiterated the general message arising from the earlier presentation discussion around the importance of co-ordinating the lobby to Government.

The Chair confirmed a number of upcoming initiatives tied in with this, including a planned dinner for key business leaders on 22 January, 2020 which she would be hosting and at which the vision to date would be shared and views sought on future direction.

She informed Board that a letter had also gone out to all MPs for the area and that group meetings for both Conservative and Labour MPs would be arranged in the New Year to

gain their perspectives.

Lobbying would also continue through Local Government and the Midlands Engine for HS2.

Board **NOTED** the update.

#### 4. Standing items

##### 4.1 Capital Programmes Performance Review and Update

Sajeeda Rose introduced an update report on the performance of the D2N2 Capital Programmes including the Local Growth Fund, Growing Places Fund and Enterprise Zones.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the LEP was now well on track to spend the target £40m and was quite likely to achieve the £46m figure when taking into account previous year's underspending.

On measuring impact, a review of the 51 projects under LGF was taking place and a report would be submitted to the next Investment Board meeting in January, 2020.

Cllr Poulter recommended reviewing the process for new pipeline bids, noting that short-notice bidding was leading to a number of failures as evidenced by recent scoring. In response, Sajeeda Rose acknowledged that the need to run a recent short-notice pipeline call in order to offer the funding opportunity had meant less time for bidders to prepare and the need for longer preparation time in future was recognised.

In response to a question from the Chair, Karen Smart confirmed that the governing Board for East Midlands Airport were in full support for the proposed regionally-led Free Trade Zone.

The Chief Executive drew Members' attention to the Gedling Access Road project, which had been due to be considered by a meeting of the Investment Board on 29 November, 2019. This meeting had been cancelled due to the impending General Election and the item needed to be presented for Board approval now in order not to set back the desired start date for the project. She invited Head of Capital Programmes, Tom Goshawk to deliver a short summary presentation.

Tom Goshawk reminded Board that the role of Investment Board focused on ensuring that all projects complied fully with the Local Assurance Framework (LAF). This project was for a 3.8km stretch of road within Gedling borough, which would create 7 new junctions to unlock development sites. The scheme would create 200 new jobs and 1,050 new homes. The project was significant due to its potential for additional development off an existing major road network and also to improve the general efficiency of a key road route between Nottingham and Mansfield.

From the initial business case in May, 2016 £500k pre-compliance funding had been awarded at the developer's risk. The project had previously been deemed high-risk due to a number of land issues, but these had now been resolved. It had passed through a full business check and was fully compliant with the LAF.

Board **NOTED** the report and **APPROVED** £10.8m of Local Growth Funding for the Gedling Access Road Project.

#### **4.2 Development Corporation Update**

Board **RECEIVED** a confidential written briefing update on the Development Corporation.

#### **4.3 HS2 Update Report**

Board **RECEIVED** an update report for information and noting on developments nationally, regionally and locally with HS2.

#### **4.4 D2N2 Enterprise Zone Markham Vale**

Board received an update report on Markham Vale and the Enterprise Zone and **NOTED** the continuing progress being made on development activities, securing new occupiers and other updates regarding the Enterprise Zone in general.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

None.

#### **5 Date of next meeting**

Friday, 31 January, 2020 (10.00am – 12.00 pm) – North East Derbyshire District Council.