D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership People and Skills Advisory Board

Date: Thursday 12th December 2019, 1.00-3.00pm
Venue: University of Derby, Kedleston Road, Derby, DE22 1GB

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Welcome and introductions
   Kath welcomed the group and introductions were made. Kath has attended the recent Derby Education Business Partnership meeting to explain the role of the People & Skills Advisory Board and requested that group members invited her to their own network meetings to ensure closer working relationships across the D2N2 area.
2. **Apologies**  
See above.  

If colleagues are unable to attend P&SAB meetings, they are requested to provide feedback via email.

3. **Conflicts of Interest**  
No members expressed a conflict of interest.

4. **Minutes of the last meeting (October 22nd 2019) and matters arising**  
The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting. All matters arising are covered in the December agenda.

Kath requested that Sarah circulated P&SAB meeting notes to the Higher Education network for comment.

5. **Midlands Engine Development Company**  
See also paper previously circulated.

The Midlands Engine Development Company has been set up as a vehicle to bring infrastructure investment into the East Midlands (in this case Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire), initially focusing on three areas – HS2 station at Toton and Chetwynd Barracks, Ratcliffe on Soar power station and East Midlands Airport. If the Development Company programme is successful, it will be rolled out across the whole of the East Midlands area.

The remit of the P&SAB is to ensure that any skills programme that develops benefits the whole D2N2 area, not just the 3 target areas.

Kath is HE representative on the Development Company’s Board.

6. **D2N2 Local Industrial Strategy**  
Presentation by Siri Arntzen, Arup

Every LEP is required to produce a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) which is evidence based and identifies strategic priorities. A comprehensive evidence base can be viewed on the D2N2 LEP website. Arup have been appointed to work with D2N2 to develop the LIS and consultation events are taking place with key partners and stakeholders. The draft LIS is will be presented to the LEP Board 19/12/19 prior to liaising with government to co-produce the final LIS. The LIS will provide a compelling vision and strategy for the D2N2 region and will be the basis for government investment.

Following analysis of the evidence base and through consultation, Arup have developed 3 guiding principles. The group had the following feedback on the guiding principles:

1. Enhance the capacity and capability of our people and business to prosper and innovate  
   - need to show how this is inclusive, pathways at all levels
• ensuring people have minimum of basic skills/transferable skills/building blocks for future skills requirements
• role of T-levels – why focus on this, should it be broadened for all educational opportunities
• more information about incentivising businesses to upskill employees
• role of education system to prepare primary school children for future working
• reliance on EU funding for skills development programmes
• business support needs to be business-led and sector specific

2. The most ambitious carbon turn-around in the country need to show how this is inclusive, pathways at all levels
• suggestion to add low carbon skills to all apprentice training
• carbon neutral is an ambition and should be a cross-cutting theme

3. Delivering connectivity-led growth in all corners of the region
• connectivity of key sites, for example, links from East Midlands Parkway to East Midlands Airport
• location of HS2 station at Toton

7. Preparing for the ESIF Reserve Fund
See also reports previously circulated

DWP are about to launch the ESF Reserve Fund. There will be around £390m available across the UK. Richard asked the group to identify priorities and timeframe for the D2N2 area, including identifying realistic match at 50%. One ESF funding call has received no applications – Fuller Working Lives.

Proposals should also take into consideration any priorities identified in the Local Industrial Strategy and the skills needs to support the Midlands Engine Development Corporation programme. Colleagues asked for more flexible, smaller programmes to be considered.

ACTION: ESF Reserve Fund proposals to Richard Kirkland by Friday 10th January 2020

8. Priority work-stream update
See also papers previously circulated

Work-stream groups are now meeting but are at the early stage of discussions. The Inclusive Recruitment & Employment Practice work-stream group will be developing a new inclusion framework to underpin the Local Industrial Strategy. A webpage for recruiting inclusively has been set up on the D2N2 LEP website – Recruiting Talent.

The D2N2 Data Analyst, Vladimir Epuri, has developed an indicator dashboard which can be used to show how the P&SAB is performing across the 3 work-streams (searchable at local authority district level).

ACTION: Rachel to share the link to the dashboard
9. **People and Skills report**
   Please see report previously circulated

   Rachel highlighted that Lisa Vernon, newly appointed Enterprise and Skills Co-ordinator, had been involved in a serious road incident and is currently not at work. Her workload has been distributed amongst the Skills team.

   Rachel is working on a planning tool which will be presented at the next P&SAB meeting, which will show objectives and progress. A wider skills and employment partners event is also being considered for 2020.

10. **Any other business**
    None

11. **Next steps**
    P&SAB members need to be mindful of the three LIS Guiding Principles at the heart of the D2N2 Local Industrial Strategy.

12. **Dates of future meetings**
    Meeting dates for 2020 to be reconsidered to ensure alignment with D2N2 LEP Board meetings.