

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

### D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, 19 May, 2020

By Teams Dial-In

Chair Elizabeth Fagan, CBE

Minutes Sally Hallam

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

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

Graham Cartledge	Business Representative
Cllr Kay Cutts, MBE	Leader, Notts County Council
Jane Howson	VCS Representative
Cllr Barry Lewis	Leader, Derbyshire County Council
Cllr David Mellen	Leader, Nottingham City Council
Prof Kathryn Mitchell	H E Representative
Cllr Chris Poulter	Derby City Council
Emma Rigler	Business Representative
Cllr Simon Robinson	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Viv Russell	Business Representative
Karen Smart	Business Representative
Jayne Mayled	Business Representative
Cllr Martin Thacker	Leader, NE Derbys DCs
Dawn Ward, CBE	F E Representative
David Williams	Business Representative
David Wright	Area Lead D2N2, BEIS
Susan Caldwell	LEP Senior sponsor, DIT

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

Mike Ashworth	Director, Derbyshire County Council
Lee Hickin	rep for N E Derbyshire DC
Nicki Jenkins	rep for Nottingham City Council
Greg Jennings	rep for Derby City Council
Scott Knowles	CEO, East Midlands Chamber
Anthony May	CEO, Nottinghamshire County Council

##### **Officer Support**

Sajeeda Rose	Chief Executive, D2N2
Natalie Gasson	Head of Operations, D2N2
Tom Goshawk	Head of Capital Programmes, D2N2
Frank Horsley	Head of Business and Innovation, D2N2
Will Morlidge	Head of Strategy and Policy, D2N2
Rachel Quinn	Head of People and Skills, D2N2
Rob Harding	Head of Marketing and Communications, D2N2

## **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Board member, Paul Harris and from Peter Handford, Derbyshire County Council (s151 officer) and Sarah Wainwright.

### **1.1 Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting, including LEP sponsor, Susan Caldwell.

### **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 31 March, 2020 were confirmed as a true record.

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

## **2.1 COVI-19 co-ordination discussion**

The Chief Executive introduced her report updating Board on D2N2's response to supporting the economy, including an overview on the proposed recovery approach. She referred members to details contained within the report including analytical data, noting that it was still early in the evolution of the pandemic to fully understand and interpret the data that was currently available and to see evidence of impact.

Current efforts were focused on bringing together partners around the 4 national phases of support, from initial response (supporting businesses to access help, identifying gaps and issues), through restart (supporting businesses to restart safely and adapt to the different phases of re-opening) to recovery and rebuilding in the longer term.

Both the Covid Recovery Board and Analytical Groups were now up and running. Sajeeda invited Jayne Mayled, Chair of the D2N2 Covid Recovery Board to summarise initial work.

Jayne reflected the outcome of the first Board meeting, held on 12 May. Clear outcomes from that meeting showed a desire for a co-ordinated approach for the region, minimising duplication of effort.

The roles of innovation and procurement were identified as crucial in supporting regional recovery. LEP Sponsor, Susan Caldwell indicated that central Government was currently looking at critical supply chains and suggested D2N2 may potentially be in a position to bid to fill national gaps. D2N2 would work to maximise opportunities across the LEP area to assist with recovery including a co-ordinated Inward Investment Strategy.

Emerging thinking indicated that the recovery plan would need to consider elements mirroring the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) in the context of recovery in particular, upskilling, clean growth initiatives, connectivity and inclusion. Work would be needed on addressing support for digital versus physical infrastructure in the new workplace and with this came acknowledgment of the need to factor in those people already digitally excluded and/or furthest from the labour market.

Prof Mitchell asked that the people and community impacts of Covid-19 be aligned with Towns Fund and Future High Street Fund bids.

A general discussion took place on the make-up of the LRFs and other recovery groups, reflecting from this Board the desire shown elsewhere not to duplicate efforts. Sajeeda Rose confirmed that whilst there will be some element of overlap between current groups which was being looked at to ensure coherence of the key messages, recovery groups comprised a mixture of upper tier and district officer representatives and other stakeholders rather than elected members.

Conversations had already been held with Derbyshire County Council on best use of complementary resourcing for support and talks would be held shortly with Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Cllr Lewis requested a more detailed understanding of the LEP Recovery Group and how it would engage and interact with the LRFs across counties and cities to avoid duplication and ensure alignment on outcomes and activities.

Discussion also took place on the need to lobby Government cohesively as a region, with members updating the group where activity had been initiated.

Cllr Mellen reported that Nottingham City Council had written to Ministers.

Graham Cartledge had drawn attention to the importance of investment in to this region during business meetings with UK Investment Minister, Lord Gerry Grimstone and Graham Stuart, MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of International Trade.

Elizabeth Fagan reported on representation in to central Government via the LEP Network, informing members that in response to ministerial requests for direct access to businesses, she and Greater Birmingham LEP Chair, Tim Pile would be hosting a joint East-West Midlands roundtable on Friday, 22 May with Ministers Nadim Zahawi and Simon Clarke and a group of businesses. Participants were currently being finalised with input from local LEPs.

The Chair also reported reaching out to Robert Jenrick for a meeting to discuss the challenges in Derby and the wider impact on D2N2.

Board **NOTED** this report.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- Will Morlidge and Frank Horsley to pick up on opportunities for D2N2 to assist with plugging gaps in national supply chain provision as part of LEP Inward Investment Strategy;
- Sajeeda Rose to discuss with Anthony May the involvement of D2N2 LEP as an economy cell on LRF groups.

#### **Item 2.2 Chair's Report**

Elizabeth Fagan introduced her report updating members on significant developments since the last meeting, including:

- i) the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS);
- ii) Freeport Consultation;
- iii) Advisory Boards update;
- iv) Board recruitment update.

- i) LIS Update

The Chair drew attention to the notes in the report. Unsurprisingly in light of the current pandemic, BEIS had asked LEPs to review their LISs considering the impact of Covid-19 and to take on the additional role of local economic recovery planning. The review would be done factoring in the Government's agenda on levelling up.

ii) Freeport Consultation

Elizabeth Fagan reported that the consultation was progressing well, with papers expected in the coming days for the new Freeports Working Group which would be meeting. She thanked Karen Smart and other key business partners for their efforts to date in this matter.

iii) Advisory Boards Update

The Chair again drew attention to detailed notes in the report before inviting Advisory Board Chairs to add comments.

For the **Business Growth Board**, Viv Russell confirmed that talks had been taking between himself and Paul Harris who chaired the Innovation Board to progress the proposal to merge the two boards into one new entity. A further formal meeting would be held in a couple of weeks and this Board would be updated at the 8 July meeting on the revised governance model.

For the **People and Skills Board**, Prof Kath Mitchell reiterated the task of aligning several strands across the region, as outlined in the report. This included the digital skills strategy. LEP Sponsor, Susan Caldwell indicated that further information on this would be useful for her to feed in to central Government thinking.

For the Place Board, David Williams confirmed that they were on track with the 10 priorities, but that any changes to this list in light of current circumstances would need to be identified and acted on quickly to ensure Government was directed to support what could realistically be delivered.

iv) Board Recruitment Update

Elizabeth Fagan reminded Board that recruitment was under way for the replacement of two Board vacancies, with the first interviews taking place following today's Board. Results would be confirmed to members at the July Board meeting.

Board **NOTED** the Chair's report.

**ACTION:** Rachel Quinn to work with Prof Mitchell and Sajeeda Rose to produce a digital strategy briefing paper for Susan Caldwell.

## 2.3 Chief Executive's Report

Sajeeda Rose presented her report updating Board on items including:

- a) Delivery Plan 2020/21;
- b) Annual Performance Review 2019/20 outcome;
- c) Skills Update;
- d) Growth Hub Update;
- e) Inward Investment and Investor Development;
- f) ESIF Update;
- g) Marketing and Communications Update.

and referred members to the notes under each item.

She drew members' attention to the detailed Delivery Plan within the papers, the final version of which had to be submitted to Government by the end of May, 2020 and which would form the basis of monitoring LEP activity and performance.

There was general agreement to the Plan, with no comments or issues raised.

On Skills delivery, the Chief Executive informed Board that careers and enterprise activity was still continuing strongly with good links being made and maintained between schools in the LEP area and local businesses, which was heartening.

The Growth Hub had taken on more covid-specific support work for businesses and Government had indicated an additional £270,000 funding for this activity.

With reference to the ESIF summary update, the Chief Executive informed Board that all projects had been seriously impacted with face to face support having been replaced with online provision. ESF and ERDF reserve funds were moving from supporting growth to survival and recovery. Work was continuing with the Managing Authorities to deploy funds where possible.

Board **NOTED** the report.

Board **APPROVED** the 2020/21 Delivery Plan for submission to Government.

## **2.4 Midlands Engine Development Corporation Strategic Business Case Update**

Anthony May from Nottinghamshire County Council introduced a confidential report updating Board on the Midlands Engine Development Corporation Strategic Business Case.

Board **RECEIVED** the report.

## **2.5 Capital Programme Performance Update**

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

Board **AGREED** to ratify and confirm the decision of the Investment Board to invest £3.8m of Local Growth Fund to the Chesterfield Station Masterplan Project.

Board **AGREED** to ratify and confirm the decision of the Investment Board to invest £3m of Local Growth Fund to the Top Wighay Farm Project.

Board **NOTED** the update of Live and Pipeline Projects in Annex A.

## **3. Any Other Business**

Graham Cartledge expressed concern about the current situation with Nottingham's Broadmarsh Shopping Centre development with news that owners, INTU were on the brink of administration. The ceasing of construction work on this major project would significantly impact the region, as would the inability to complete this significant brand project for the area.

Cllr Mellen for Nottingham City Council acknowledged and agreed with the concern. He confirmed to Board that talks were ongoing to ensure interests in the project were protected.

Cllr Cutts for Nottinghamshire County Council noted that delays in the project construction would continue to result in significant impact on transport routes from the south side of the city. She offered help on behalf of the County Council to the City Council, which Cllr Mellen acknowledged with thanks.

#### **4. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, 8 July, 2020 (10.00am – 12.00 pm) – joining details to follow.