

Item 1.3: CONFIRMED Key Decision/Action Points from Board

D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Friday, 31 January, 2020

North East Derbyshire District Council, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth,

Chesterfield S42 6NG

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 Co Council
Paul Harris	Business Representative
Jane Howson	VCS Representative
Cllr Barry Lewis	Leader Derbys County Council
Cllr David Mellen	Leader, Nottm City Council
Prof Kathryn Mitchell	H E Representative
Cllr Chris Poulter	Derby City Council
Viv Russell	Business Representative
Karen Smart	Business Representative
Cllr Martin Thacker	NE Derbyshire District Council
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

Nicki Jenkins	Director, Nottingham City Council CEO
Kath Marriott	Rushcliffe Borough Council CEO
Dan Swaine	Joint CEO Bolsover and N E Derbyshire DCs
Adrian Smith	Deputy Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
Greg Jennings	Director, Derby City Council CEO
Frank Horsley	Head of Econ. Dev, Derbyshire County Council
Joanne Rowelle	Arup Consultants

Officer Support

Sajeeda Rose	Chief Executive, D2N2
Tom Goshawk	Head of Capital Programmes, D2N2
Rob Harding	Head of Communications and Marketing, D2N2
Will Morlidge	Head of Strategy and Policy, D2N2
Rachel Quinn	Head of People and Skills
Natalie Gasson	Head of Operations
Peter Handford	Derbyshire County Council Director of Finance (S151 Officer)
Sarah Wainwright	Derbyshire County Council Snr Accountant and D2N2 Monitoring Officer

Apologies

Apologies were received from Board members Cllr Robinson, Emma Rigler and Jayne Mayled. From the supporting officers, apologies were received from East Midlands Chamber's CEO, Scott Knowles.

1.1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting, including LEP sponsor, Susan Caldwell and Derbyshire County Council Finance Director and s151 Officer, Peter Handford.

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 19 December, 2019 were confirmed as a true record.

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

2.1 Chair's Report

The Chair introduced her report which included 3 elements:

- i) An update on the LIS, including a presentation by Joanna Rowelle, Director of City Economics and Planning at consultants, Arup;
- ii) An update on the Advisory Boards, including a Place Board presentation by Deputy Chair and Place Board Chair, David Williams;
- iii) An update on partner engagement.

i) LIS Update

Elizabeth Fagan invited Joanna Rowelle to present her slides. Joanna Rowelle took Board through a short summary presentation, highlighting how comments from the previous Board had been incorporated in the latest draft that had been circulated to Members.

She drew attention to specific elements of the vision and propositions that tied in well with current-emerging Government thinking, including the 'green heart' reference and proposition 2 on clean growth for D2N2 addressing the climate change agenda, as well as a focus on skills and upskilling for productivity.

Board was reminded that the deadline for submission to Government of the final strategy was 31 March, 2020.

A general discussion followed.

Under proposition 1 on improving business support to education, skills and business support systems, Dawn Ward highlighted the need to develop an apprenticeship programme based

on industry-led national standards which had yet to be fully developed. There was agreement that the skills proposition was not yet as ambitious as it should be.

Jane Howson voiced concern at the reference on p18 to requiring the National Lottery to work with D2N2 on joint priorities for local investment, pointing out that this fund existed to support charitable causes and was the only place that some charities could go to for funding.

Cllr Mellen felt that the latest draft was a much-improved document but commented that a specific example showing D2N2's environmental ambitions should be included with mention of Nottingham being the furthest forward of the cities in its aim to become carbon-neutral.

Cllr Thacker reiterated a desire to include more examples from towns and felt that it was important to show a strong link in the LIS to the new Towns Fund.

Viv Russell referred to the regions strength in mineral and cement production for the construction industry. We produce 90% of the lime the country needs for water purification and 85% of its energy from waste, and we can therefore deliver huge progress towards zero carbon as we lead the way in decarbonising the construction supply chain so we should therefore build this strength within the LIS.

The Chair thanked the presenter and summarised the discussion points as agreeing that the draft was moving in the right direction, with pointers to build on to make the final version bolder in its ambition.

ii) Advisory Boards Update

Elizabeth Fagan drew Board's attention to notes in her report updating on the Advisory Boards and invited David Williams, Chair of Place Board to provide an update to Members.

David Williams spoke to a slide presentation. In summary, the biggest challenge for this Advisory Board was now to incorporate coherently within Place all aspects of a growth strategy (business environment, skills, people and infrastructure) across a vastly diverse geographical area.

Work to date had incorporated input from all 4 upper tier authorities and good collaboration had taken place with a number of regional partners including on proposals for housing delivery with Homes England. A significant challenge remained, however, to refine priorities amongst such a large group. David Williams proposed to split the Board into a number of task and finish groups to achieve this.

The Place Board will be looking at pulling together a coordinated Place plan for the region which will also align with the work of the Town Fund areas across D2N2. There is a specific workstream to support the Towns Fund areas which will feedback to the Place board at the next meeting.

Some general discussion ensued on how best to position Place outcomes for the benefit of the whole region – eg choosing schemes that would have the biggest overall impact including amongst related supply chains or considering a spatial distribution based on projects covering all parts of the area.

Susan Caldwell on behalf of central Government confirmed that a clear message was coming from the new Government to focus at pace on climate change, as well as on investment into the regions as part of the 'levelling up' agenda.

Existing projects that could be ready to go should not be discounted but rather presented in revised form to match the current narrative.

The Chair thanked David Williams, Susan Caldwell and Members for their input.

iii) Partner Engagement

On partner engagement, Elizabeth Fagan drew Board's attention to the notes in her report covering engagement with key partners including all Local Authority Leaders, a dinner for key business leaders in the D2N2 area and meetings to secure ongoing dialogue with the region's MPs.

She invited Susan Caldwell to comment on the focus of this work.

Susan Caldwell confirmed that these initiatives tied in with emerging policy from central government. All Government departments were being challenged on how they were supporting the regions. There was a big focus on climate change.

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

2.2 Chief Executive's Report

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

- a) Annual Performance Review (APR)
- b) Growth Hub update
- c) Stronger Towns Fund
- d) Marketing and Communications Update.

and referred members to the notes under each item.

On the APR, the Chief Executive reported that a productive meeting had taken place with BEIS on 23 January, 2020 and progress had been demonstrated in all areas of assessment.

On the Stronger Towns Fund, Sajeeda Rose confirmed that work was under way with partners in areas that had received backing from the fund to proactively support the new Town Deal Boards. Members were encouraged to put themselves forward if they were interested in joining these boards, a recommendation endorsed strongly by the Chair.

Board **NOTED** the report.

2.3 Performance Review and Update

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

The Chief Executive reported significant progress on spend with more than £33m now accounted for in this financial year against an end of year target of £40M. Outputs remained challenging and monitoring would continue. A further report would be made updating this to the March Investment Board.

The CEO drew Board's attention to the decision of the Investment Board to grant £1m of Local Growth Funding to the Ashbourne Airfield project and asked Members to ratify and confirm the decision.

Board **CONFIRMED** the decision of the Investment Board to grant £1m of Local Growth Funding to the Ashbourne Airfield project.

The CEO reported that following the pipeline call in the summer 5 projects had been shortlisted and endorsed by the Investment Board to be brought on to the programme. Board were asked to ratify the decision.

Board **CONFIRMED** the decision of the investment Board to bring forward the 5 identified projects to full business case.

Cllr Poulter was invited to summarise for Board the present situation concerning refurbishment of the Derby Assembly Rooms. He informed Board that following well-publicised project management difficulties, the project had been halted when it had become apparent that costs were forecast to escalate from the initial £24m to £33m. The regeneration of the Assembly Rooms remained the number one priority for Derby City Council and other options for its renewal were being explored.

This meant that £4m had gone back into the LGF pot. Given that this funding was now available, alongside the potential for further projects at risk Board was asked to consider and approve the launch of a new short-term call for new projects by way of risk mitigation.

Board **APPROVED** the recommendation of Investment Board to open a further pipeline call for potential new projects and **CONFIRMED** acceptance of five new projects onto the LEP's Capital Programme for funding before March, 2021.

2.4 East Midlands Free Trade Zone Proposal

Board considered a confidential report concerning the development of an East Midlands Free Trade Zone ('free port') based around East Midlands Airport.

It was agreed that moving forward this will be referred to as the East Midlands Freeport Enterprise Zone.

Board supported the outline concept and initial steps proposed and **AGREED** to take this forward.

3. Any Other Business

Cllr Cutts advised Board that Nottinghamshire County Council had launched a new 'My Notts' app on 30 January, 2020 which would be a platform for event organisers to record and promote events taking place in the area. It was envisaged that this would significantly assist in growing the local visitor economy.

4. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 31 March, 2020 (10.00am – 12.00 pm) – venue tbc.