# D2N2 LEP BOARD – AGENDA
Wednesday, 19 May 2021 (10.00am – 12 noon)

By dial in via MS Teams (calendar invitation supplied)

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Welcome and Introductions.</td>
<td>Verbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Declarations of Interest</td>
<td>Verbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Minutes of meeting 23/3/21 and matters arising.</td>
<td>Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Strategic discussion</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Chair’s Report, including:</td>
<td>Elizabeth Fagan, Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Delivery Plan</td>
<td>Sajeeda Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>D2N2 Chief Executives Report, including:</td>
<td>Sajeeda Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Capital Programme Performance Update</td>
<td>Sajeeda Rose/Tom Goshawk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Development Corporation Update</td>
<td>Anthony May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Midlands Engine Overview and Update</td>
<td>Anthony May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Any other business:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 7 July 2021 (10am – 12 noon)
Item 1.3: DRAFT Key Decision/Action Points from Board

D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, 23 March, 2021

By Teams Dial-In

Chair Elizabeth Fagan CBE
Minutes Sally Hallam

1. Present and Apologies

D2N2 Board Members in Attendance

David Williams Deputy Chair
James Brand Business Representative
Graham Cartledge CBE Business Representative
Andrew Copley F E Representative
Cllr Kay Cutts, MBE Leader, Notts County Council
Cllr Alex Dale Leader, NEDDC, D2 representative
Michele Farmer Inclusion and Diversity Representative
Tim Freeman Business Representative
Cllr Barry Lewis Leader, Derbyshire County Council
Jayne Mayled Business Representative
Cllr David Mellen Leader, Nottingham City Council
Cllr Chris Poulter Leader, Derby City Council
Becky Rix Business Representative
Viv Russell Business Representative
Cllr Simon Robinson Rushcliffe Borough Council, N2 representative
Prof Shearer West, CBE HE Representative
Chris Lowry Area Lead D2N2, BEIS

Also in attendance

Gill Callingham Director, N E Derbyshire DC
Anthony May CEO, Nottinghamshire County Council
Kath Marriott CEO, Rushcliffe Borough Council
Rachel North Director, Derby City Council
Nicki Jenkins Director, Nottingham City Council
Emma Alexander Exec Director for Derbyshire County Council

Officer Support

Sajeeda Rose Chief Executive, D2N2
Tom Goshawk Head of Capital Programmes, D2N2
Frank Horsley Head of Business and Innovation, D2N2
Michelle Reynolds Operations Manager, D2N2
Rachel Quinn Head of People and Skills, D2N2
Rob Harding Head of Marketing and Communications, D2N2
Apologies

Apologies were received from Board member, Clare James, from EMC CEO, Scott Knowles and from LEP Sponsor, Susan Caldwell.

1.1 Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth Fagan welcomed all to the meeting, extending a particular welcome to Becky Rix who was attending her first Board meeting as a member, having observed the last 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. Elizabeth Fagan declared an interest in exempt item 2.6 relating to Boots EZ and took no part in discussion during that section of the meeting handing the chair to David Williams as Deputy Chair.

Cllr Mellen declared an interest in item 2.5 relating to the redevelopment of Nottingham’s Broadmarsh area and took no part in any discussion during that section of the meeting.

Prof West declared an interest in item 2.5 relating to Nottingham University’s Aerospace facility project and took no part in any discussion during that section of the meeting.

1.3 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 January, 2021 were confirmed as a true record and actions were confirmed as having been completed.

In a change to the published running order, the Chair agreed to take item 2.4 Midlands Connect update presentation ahead of strategic business in order for presenter, Maria Machancoses to be able then to leave to fulfil other commitments.

Elizabeth Fagan welcomed the Midlands Connect Chief Executive and invited her to take the floor.

2.4 Midlands Connect Update

Maria Machancoses took Board though a slide presentation summarising the work of Midlands Connect, a government-funded, sub-national multi-modal transport body for the Midlands. The presentation referenced current workstreams including HS2 and the Integrated Rail Plan, Technical Programmes, Strategy Refresh and other major strategic programmes and policies.

Board was reminded of the current ‘under review’ status of Phase 2b of HS2, with publication of the Integrated Rail Plan now expected in the summer, post-elections. Wider rail activity centred on 7 projects under the banner of Midlands Engine Rail, with a £3.5bn programme including initiatives to better connect east and west.

On roads, work was ongoing to progress schemes such as A46 and A50-A500 which supported East Midlands activities.

MM confirmed that a Midlands Connect strategy refresh was taking place in light of economic recovery post-Covid, the levelling up agenda and climate change including transport decarbonisation, with a particular focus on accelerating electric vehicle charging infrastructure. It would continue until autumn 2021 and a number of engagement and consultation events
were planned.

MM referred to the Union Connectivity underway and in particular in the context to connectivity to Freeports identified within it. MM confirmed that Midlands Connect was keen to support both the freeports in the east midlands to maximise the benefits of the freeports across the region by ensuring better east west connectivity.

EF thanked MM for the presentation.

In response to a question from Tim Freeman on whether EV charging proposals were also including hydrogen, MM confirmed this to be the case and offered to provide additional information outside of the meeting.

2.1 Chair’s Report

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

i) East Midlands Freeport;
ii) Budget 2021 Implications on LEPs;
iii) Advisory Boards update;
iv) Partner engagement.

i) East Midlands Freeport

The Chair referred to the recent success with stage one of the Freeport bid and recorded thanks to all who had supported across the region, from city councils to district and county authorities, landowners and local MPs who had helped to lobby successfully towards this outcome. She reminded Board, however, that the competitive phase would not be over until such time as Government accepted the detailed business case that was now being developed in collaboration with Government alongside putting in place a formal governance structure.

ii) Budget 2021 Implications for LEPs

EF referred Board to the announcement in the Budget that future capital funding would go to local authorities and the role of LEPs would be reviewed, noting that this was a sensitive issue with implications for staff colleagues present on this video call.

Minister Paul Scully had been appointed to lead the review, which was to be completed by early summer. A LEP review body was being set up and terms of reference were being worked on by Government executives and the LEP Network. Once more detail was available, it would be for members to take a view and seek to influence accordingly. In the meantime, business would continue as usual.

In response to EF opening up to the floor for comment, Anthony May offered to bring a synopsis of funding streams available to local authorities to the next meeting of this Board for information.

iii) Advisory Boards Update

EF noted that People and Skills would be covered in detail under the next item and invited the Chairs of Place Board and Business Growth and Innovation Board to summarise briefly any points in addition to the notes contained within the Chair’s report.

David Williams for Place Board reiterated the previously noted challenge of getting a large
and diverse group to identify appropriate cross-cutting themes across the whole area. He felt that low carbon and the use of hydrogen was gaining real traction in this respect.

Viv Russell for Business Growth and Innovation Board reported a well-attended and dynamic meeting on 3 March. He felt that the group had now gelled and was working well as a unit.

Two key points to note were the establishment of a manufacturing and advisory group to support the industrialization framework and the use of a theme group to complete a mapping exercise to support innovation and R&D for SMEs.

Becky Rix asked if there was an update on the Green Hub throughout the region.

**ACTION**: Frank Horsley undertook to check out information and follow up separately outside of the meeting.

iv) Partner Engagement

Board noted that dialogues were ongoing with partners and key stakeholders.

A further regular meeting had taken place last week with the region’s Conservative MPs, who had demonstrated continued support for the work of the LEP and a keenness to engage in the context of allocation of capital funds to this area.

Board **NOTED** the Chair’s report.

**2.2 People and Skills Report**

Rachel Quinn delivered a presentation summarising the plans and priorities of the People and Skills Board in its role as the Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) for D2N2, as detailed in the written report.

She reminded Board of the three strands of the P & S strategy, focusing on digital, Covid 19 recovery and future skills.

Board was advised that, following the successful launch of the digital boot camps in the D2N2 area, a further bid had been submitted to continue the programme and extend into Lincolnshire.

Much work had been undertaken under Covid 19 recovery to understand the situation in real time, with recent focus on young people who had been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and the promotion of the Kickstart programme.

On future skills, a decision was still awaited on an Institute of Technology for the region. The successful Careers Hub model was now being rapidly expanded to a 4-hub model giving pan-LEP coverage.

RQ drew Members’ attention to the contractual obligation of the SAP to produce a Local Skills Report, publication of which was due by 31 March, 2021 and for which a link to the final draft had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The lengthy document had been prepared to the prescribed format and a shorter summary would be produced for ease of reference in due course.

RQ thanked the University of Derby who had been instrumental in supporting preparation of the document, particularly with the test and challenge elements to ensure a robust evidence base for supporting proposed actions. Analysis had highlighted key areas for attention, including targeting areas of high levels of unemployment amongst the young, improving access
to skills including digital skills and with reference to rural needs and delivering a skills offer to build productivity linking in with the Economic Growth and Recovery Plan for D2N2.

Partner ‘asks’ included embedding careers and digital elements in the curriculum for schools and for Government to increase access for re-skilling and upskilling of the general workforce.

Work was also under way to prepare for Local Skills Improvement Plan delivery. Two meetings had already taken place with East Midlands Chamber to discuss how to progress this initiative building on the Local Skills report and a collaborative bid to deliver had been agreed.

RQ handed to Prof Shearer West for her reflections on the operation of the P & S Advisory Board. Prof West reported good progress on governance, acknowledging the work done by her predecessor, Prof Kath Mitchell to support this. There was slow but steady progress on developing a dashboard which would be an important tool for the future when considering interventions.

Andrew Cropley commented that overall progress was good but felt that in the context of the White Paper it would be helpful to place colleges at the heart of developments. He expressed the view that the tone of description of colleges within the Local Skills Report appeared unfairly negative in comparison with that relating to the higher education providers and agreed to work with RQ to improve where possible, noting the tight timescale.

Michele Farmer was invited to add any comments from an inclusion representative perspective. MF endorsed the message that jobs and skills, like Place-shaping, were clearly big agenda items to work on going forward. She welcomed the best practice examples of careers advice being rolled out in D2N2, citing Dan Heffernan’s virtual careers environment in particular. She would be contacting each Advisory Body sub-group with agenda items to discuss who could be assisted and measurable actions to monitor successful achievement.

The Chair thanked RQ for the presentation. She also took the opportunity to thank Rachel generally for her contribution as Head of People and Skills as she prepared now to move on from D2N2.

Board NOTED the contents of the Local Skills Report, confirmed support for the asks of partners and gave final approval for publication.

2.3 Chief Executive’s Report

Sajeeva Rose presented her report updating Board on items including:

a) Business and Innovation update;
b) Place activities update;
c) Budget announcements;
d) Marketing and Communications update;
e) ESF update

and referred members to the detailed notes under each item.

Under Business and Innovation, SR highlighted in particular 2 workstreams now under way to support businesses and stimulate growth, namely:

i) Access to finance – working alongside British Business Bank to identify areas for additional support around investment readiness, with possible scope to extend to colleagues in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire;
ii) **International investment** – key to the success of the Freeport as well as capitalising on the SmartParc project in Derby, this focused on ways of working with partners to put the region at the heart of a strong investment programme.

On funding announcements in the Budget, SR drew attention to Levelling Up infrastructure funding for identified “priority 1” areas who could bid for up to £20m in the first round due to close on 18 June, 2021.

Members were also given an outline of the Community Renewal Fund, a £220m pilot revenue support successor to European funding, to trial new approaches to developing policy and shape how future rounds would be designed.

Attention was drawn to successful bids for Towns Fund funding from Clay Cross, Mansfield, Newark and Staveley, whilst decisions were still awaited on Long Eaton and Ashfield. Chris Lowry confirmed that a UK-wide investment framework would be published by Government later in the year.

Anthony May thanked SR for the summary and offered to report to a future Board on progress with the various funds across different local authority areas and any update on the Shared Prosperity Fund.

On Marketing and Communications, SR thanked the Comms team for collaborative work on coverage of the Freeport bid and outcome, with particular mention for Rob Harding. Board was also advised that Rob had worked with Member, Jayne Mayled on how the LEP engaged on key messaging and referred to the accompanying Communications plan within the board papers.

Board **NOTED** the report.

### 2.5 Capital Programme Performance Update

The Chief Executive introduced a report providing an update on the performance of the D2N2 Capital Programme and detailing the latest updates of all programmes as presented to the Investment Board (IB) on 10 March, 2021.

SR clarified that the only exempt element of the report referred to commercially sensitive data within the full report on the Transforming Nottingham Southside project.

Board was reminded that the 5-year, £250.7m Local Growth Fund scheme was approaching its conclusion shortly and SR confirmed that, due to the decision to overprogramme, the scheme was fully on track to deliver. She recorded thanks to all involved for their efforts particularly within the last 3 years to bring about this significant achievement given the previous challenges of underperformance.

The 2-year Getting Building Fund was now at the end of year one, with completion of 7 of the 10 allocated projects (subject to approval today of funding for Transforming Nottingham’s Southside) representing 57% of total £44m funding value. Good progress was being shown on the remainder.

This success had been reflected at the LEP’s recent Annual Performance Review with BEIS. Board was advised of a change of assessment criteria by Government this year, with ratings against governance, strategy and delivery replaced by either meeting or not meeting Government requirements. D2N2 was advised that it had met Government requirements.
A robust discussion had highlighted the strength of the partnership and areas of good practice, notably in capital programme performance, work across the Towns Fund and development of a regional recovery plan cited as specific examples.

The Chair recorded thanks to SR and the team for management of the programme, in particular Tom Goshawk as the Head of Capital Programme throughout this difficult period and also thanked the Investment Board and D2N2 partners for their support.

SR handed to Tom Goshawk who took Board through summary slides covering:

i) Project approval by written procedures for the UK Electrification of Aerospace Propulsion facility (for noting) and

ii) Project approval for release of GBF funds for the Transforming Nottingham Southside project (exempt section, for ratification of IB recommendation and approval).

Board noted the £7.6m GBF contribution towards a £16.885m total project cost to purchase capital equipment in the University of Nottingham Jubilee campus facility, which would test and develop future aerospace technologies. The project aimed to deliver 300 new jobs by 2025 and £140m worth of work for industry and support to the supply chain.

Board NOTED the progress of the D2N2 Capital Programme and the outcome of D2N2’s Annual Review.

Board NOTED the approval by written procedures of £7.6m of Getting Building fund for the UK Electrification of Aerospace Propulsion facility in February, 2021.

Board RATIFIED and CONFIRMED the decision of the Investment Board to invest £7.99m of GBF to the Transforming Nottingham Southside project and APPROVED the release of funds to Nottingham City Council.

2.6 Growing Places Fund Update Report

This section of the meeting has been made exempt under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that in view of the nature of the business, that if members of the public were present, exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed to them and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2.7 Midlands Engine Development Corporation Strategic Business Case Update

Anthony May referred Board to his update report, noting that the end of the first phase of work on the Development Corporation had now been reached.

The Interim Vehicle had been set up into a company owned by the 5 most affected authorities and would be up and running from 1 April, 2021. Work was ongoing with D2N2 nd public/private sector stakeholders to ensure compatibility of activities with Freeport and other Midlands initiatives.

A meeting was to be arranged with the Secretary of State to discuss the Development Corporation Strategic Business Case and Members would be further updated at a future meeting.
Board RECEIVED the report.

1. Any other business

None.

2. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 19 May, 2021.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report updates members on significant developments since the last Board meeting, specifically:

   a. LEP Review 2021 (*Appendices 1 and 2*)
   b. East Midlands Freeport
   c. Advisory Boards Update
   d. Partner engagement

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Board is asked to **NOTE** the contents of the report and comment on the proposed LEP functions from the LEP review.

3. LEP REVIEW 2021

Board members will be aware from the last board meeting that there is currently a LEP review under way.

By way of context following Ministerial decisions around the awarding of capital funding to local areas, the remit of LEPs has fundamentally shifted. The government, therefore, set out a commitment at Budget 2021 to work with LEPs and provide advice to Ministers on how the role of LEPs might evolve.

Terms of Reference have now been agreed with Government (*attached Appendix 1*) on the scope of the review. A series of joint workstreams have commenced with LEPs and officials between now and the summer to inform officials’ final advice to Ministers.

The review is looking to cover not only the basic principles of the role of LEPs, but also the fundamental relationship with local and national government, as well as the governance and accountability framework. These discussions and considerations, will take place between LEPs and officials alongside thematic engagement in areas such as skills, international trade, business support etc.

Alongside the various working groups, government are also consulting wider partners at regional level on their engagement with LEPs to inform the final recommendations.

The four key workstreams that will inform the review are:
Objectives and Functions
Geographies and Accountabilities
Representation and Interaction with Local Government
Implementation and Funding

The initial focus quite rightly, has been on the objectives and functions of the LEP, which will then inform future workstreams.

**The objective of evolved LEPs**

The starting point is framed within the context of how LEPs build on their current role and experience to transition to focus on driving prosperity through inclusive growth, capitalising on their unique role as impartial convenors to deliver the Government’s Plan for Growth at a local level.

This builds on the one pager from the LEP network (attached Appendix 2) to the Secretary of State for BEIS Kwasi Kwarteng at his request and is being refined with officials to inform the final thinking.

**Based on the current thinking evolved LEPs could have the following 3 functions – this is still under discussion and yet to be agreed with Government:**

**FUNCTION ONE:** To fulfil a strategic role, providing place-based economic expertise and insight to central and local government and helping secure long-term inclusive growth at the local level as part of the Plan for Growth. LEPs will have diverse business boards that best reflect the local economy including a greater breadth of SMEs.

**FUNCTION TWO:** To identify key local sectors and industries, and to design and deliver interventions to make them more competitive, making the most of local opportunities. The place-based growth this could unlock should be centred around the pillars and themes of the Plan for Growth, especially the UK’s Net Zero requirements.

**FUNCTION THREE:** To deliver a programme of joined-up, expert and tailored business advice and support for local businesses, ensuring they can play their full part in the Plan for Growth. A consistent, quality, offer should be available throughout the country.

As the East Midlands representatives on the LEP Network board, D2N2 is actively engaged and represented in the discussions.

I would welcome feedback from board members on the proposed functions, and in particular highlight the areas where LEPs can continue to play a key role within the D2N2 region to support longer term economic prosperity.

4. **EAST MIDLANDS FREEPORT**

Following the successful announcement of the East Midlands Freeport bid announced in the budget, government have issued guidance that all freeports will
need to complete an outline business case by this summer and full business case by the autumn of this year, before formal designation can be confirmed.

In the latest freeport guidance on governance, government has set out a requirement for a local authority to take on the role of the ‘lead authority’ to work with government and local partners to oversee the next steps on establishing the freeport governance and the business case approval process.

The upper tier councils in the partnership have agreed that Leicestershire County Council will take on the Lead Authority and Accountable Body role for the East Midlands Freeport given that the primary port, East Midlands Airport, is located there. The next steps on developing the freeport will be led by Leicestershire County Council working in partnership with the consortium of Freeport landowners and local authorities.

It is unclear if D2N2 and LLEP will have a formal role on the governance arrangements.

Having led the development of the winning bid we remain fully committed to supporting partners to successfully realise the opportunities of the Freeport for the region and will support that in our capacity as a LEP to promote the region’s economic growth.

5. ADVISORY BOARDS

The main advisory boards haven’t met since the last board meeting as they are all scheduled to meet in early June. Progress has continued on the workstreams of each of the boards with partners and through the working groups which is highlighted below.

- Business Growth and Innovation

Partnership activity is developing regarding improving access to finance for early-stage start-up and scale up SMEs to support recovery and growth, which is one of the identified areas of focus for the Business Growth and Innovation Board.

On 20th April, an event was held with the D2N2 Growth Hub Intermediary Network, which was attended by over 30 intermediaries and included presentations from D2N2 Growth Hub, British Business Bank, ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales) and Derby City Council who showcased their new ASCEND programme to support scale-up businesses.

A panel session concluded the event and involved discussion about how local intermediaries can work with the LEP and Growth Hub to improve investment readiness support and take-up of equity options for SMEs. Feedback on the day was positive and a series of further events are planned for the coming year to continue this engagement with a view to improving the level of local companies successfully accessing finance for growth.

Finally, work continues in partnership with DIT (Department of Industry and Trade) and EMB (East Midlands Business) Ltd in the preparation of a D2N2 Internationalisation Strategy to support SMEs looking to export following EU exit.
It is envisaged that the draft strategy will be presented to the next Business Growth & Innovation Advisory Board in June.

- **People and Skills**

  Since the last Board meeting D2N2 published the [Local Skills Report](#) following additional input from Andrew Cropley. While the People & Skills Advisory Board has not met since the major update at the last Board meeting, work has progressed through the 3 sub-groups.

  1. **The Careers & Young People sub-group** (Chair – James Brand) is managing the transition to a careers system that better reflects local economies through 4 careers hubs.

  2. **The Employment sub-group** is focussed on improving outcomes from Kickstart and other employment incentives and increasing access to employment advice for higher skilled individuals and graduates.

  3. **The Skills for Growth sub-group** is developing a skills plan to improve local access and higher-level provision of low carbon and digital skills in manufacturing.

    The Chairs of each sub-group and their D2N2 officer leads now meet quarterly to identify overlaps between their workstreams and collaborate where possible.

- **Place**

  Our [D2N2 Energy Strategy Group](#) is being reshaped into the **Low Carbon Growth Group**.

  Building on the work of the energy strategy group the group is being reshaped to consider a broader approach to Low Carbon and respond to the PM’s Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. Wayne Bexton will remain as co-chair and we are delighted Becky Rix from the main board has agreed to be his private sector co-chair.

  The group brings together **major businesses** which are both consumers and innovators on low carbon such as TMUK and Alstom; **key partners** in the energy sector like Uniper, EON and Western Power distribution; and other **utility companies** with complementary growth ambitions and skills needs such as Cadent and BT.

  All three universities will remain on board, and we have invited both cities and counties and representation from districts through Rushcliffe and Bolsover, whose Chief Executives are also the chairs of their respective county energy strategy groups.

  The group is now better placed to discuss strategic investment needs across major consumers and providers of power and the innovation and skills that will be needed to get us to net zero.

  The group will focus on enabling a co-ordinated approach to the Low Carbon priorities from the Recovery and Growth Strategy:
1. Revolutionise our economy to **low carbon energy** production, innovation, storage, transport, industry, agriculture and heating

2. **Global hub for low carbon**: Use our Freeport to stimulate a low carbon energy cluster across our other outstanding investment sites

3. **Low carbon homes**: work with HE on new models of funding and demand aggregation to grow the market.

4. **Promoting carbon literacy in business**: using our business support and innovation programmes to promote low carbon transition.

5. **Inspire our current and future workforce** to undertake training, follow careers and adopt lifestyles needed for Net Zero by 2050

6. Increasing the ability of our **natural assets to sequester carbon** while promoting growth.

The first meeting on 25th May will be reviewing the report expected imminently from Derby City Council on the potential scale of the hydrogen economy in D2N2. We believe having the regional-level partners coming in behind the report, we will be in a stronger position to lever in support from Government and private sector investors.

The group will of course, link closely with our skills and innovation work to ensure maximum benefit and minimum overlap.

The first meeting of the **Housing Strategy subgroup** came together on the 27th of April, chaired by Matthew Montague of Matthew Montague Architects who is a member of the Place Board.

The group's main aim is to bring together partners to focus on prioritising the development of Modern Methods of construction (MMC) and offsite delivery in the housing sector, to accelerate housing growth in a sustainable and low carbon way. The first set of actions for the group include:

- Identification of potential sites for MMC housing developments
- Investigate planning policy to look at ways to incentivise offsite/MMC development to offset the barriers to MMC.
- Identify examples of best practice to show how MMC development can be delivered viably.

6. **PARTNER ENGAGEMENT**

Since the last board meeting, I have met with a range of partners to continue to champion and advocate the work of the region and D2N2 in terms of promoting opportunities for economic growth.

As part of a regular series of **meetings with MPs**, I recently met with the regions **Labour group MPs** to update them on key issues in the region and understand their priorities for their respective constituencies.
I have had ongoing engagement with neighbouring and regional LEPs on opportunities for joint working and collaboration and ensuring a co-ordinated response to the LEP review.

Elizabeth Fagan
Chair
19 May 2021
Terms of Reference – Evolving the form, functions and geographies of Local Enterprise Partnerships to respond to changes in Central Government policy.

Overview

1. The government set out a commitment at the March 2021 Budget to work with local businesses and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) on the evolution of LEPs:

“We will also be working with local businesses on the future role of Local Enterprise Partnerships. We want to ensure local businesses have clear representation and support in their area, in order to drive the recovery. We will work with Local Enterprise Partnerships over the coming months, with a view to announcing more detailed plans ahead of summer recess. This will also include consideration of Local Enterprise Partnerships’ geographies.”

2. Government has determined its policy to entrust Local Authorities with the responsibility to bid directly for allocations from the Levelling Up Fund, the UK Community Renewal Fund and the Community Ownership Fund and for subsequent delivery.

3. This will be a government-led review into the role of LEPs going forward, supported by engagement with businesses, and in particular a programme of conversations with the LEP network. We will work with LEPs, local businesses and others between now and the Summer to consider the form, functions and geographies required for evolved LEPs to best support productivity and growth going forward.

4. The performance of LEPs and the LEP network since the Strengthened LEPs Review of 2018 has progressed significantly, formally assessed twice through the Annual Performance Process.

5. The contribution of LEPs during the pandemic, notably in business intelligence, Ministerial Roundtables, skills support leveraging the involvement of FE/HE, through the Growth Hub network, from delivery of Growth Deal 3 programmes and the rapid turnaround of bids for the Getting Building Fund has been acknowledged by Ministers. It is therefore policy change, not LEP performance, that is the key driver of the review.

6. These draft terms of reference set out the scope of the review, questions to resolve, governance of and planned engagement between government officials and stakeholders.

Aim

7. To come to a detailed resolution by the Summer, to inform advice to Ministers and the Spending Review, on how to evolve LEPs to best support and represent businesses in places.

Starting assumptions

8. Local Authorities will have decision-making and delivery responsibilities for local growth capital funding, taking this over from LEPs. This does not necessarily preclude a future role for LEPs in shaping and influencing local growth funding processes pending the outcome of this review.

9. LEPs will retain responsibility and accountability for current Local Growth Fund, Getting Building Fund projects and the funds allocated.
10. Government wants to build on the strategic influencing role LEPs have played, and have a strong role for business leaders driving the local growth agenda in their areas.

11. Government intends to build future institutions by evolving from existing LEPs rather than starting from scratch.

12. Evolved LEPs will be even more business-led whilst continuing to ensure strong engagement with local authorities in their area.

Questions to consider
First tranche:

13. **Objectives**: What is the purpose of evolved LEPs and how can they effectively support and represent local businesses? This will include consideration of how institutions could address the long-tail of low productivity, help SMEs to grow and to export and to attract high value inward investment to our regions.

14. **Functions**: What functions will the evolved LEPs need to provide to effectively fulfill the objectives? This will include consideration of how we better align business support services with skills, innovation, net zero, trade and export support in places, recent institutional effectiveness and overseas comparators. It will also look at how best to harness LEPs’ strategic influence across these themes and what influence they might have over future investment decisions. It will also look at how to make these functions even more business-led and shaped, and what role business should play in advising Local and National Government.

15. **Form**: What form do the evolved institutions need to take? This will include consideration of what the future accountability and governance framework will need to contain – perhaps within a national framework – that replaces the existing assurance frameworks. It will also consider how these institutions could work alongside MCAs – currently many LEPs are intertwined in MCAs where they exist. It will consider the balance between central and local ownership and constraints on reform given many LEPs’ have company status. The role of the LEP Network in this new model will also be considered to ensure continuity of the relevant key elements of the MoU between the Network and CLGU.

16. **Departmental ownership**: LEPs are currently managed by the Cities and Local Growth Unit spanning MHCLG and BEIS. Given the change of emphasis brought about by policy change, consideration will be given to which government department should sponsor and support evolved LEPs.

17. **Geography**: At what spatial scale should these institutions operate? This will include consideration of the most effective size and number of institutions, drawing from the existing 38 LEPs and their regional groupings, with potentially more strategic institutions over wider geographies, and without overlaps, taking account of the importance of functional economic areas.

Second tranche (to address once the first tranche have been considered):

18. **Representation**: How can we make sure that the membership truly represents the full array of business interests, retaining and attracting the best talent? This will include consideration of the composition and breadth of business membership, including SMEs and sectoral diversity. It will look specifically at how we can attract more young, entrepreneurial and diverse business leaders, as well as the important role FE/HE and Social Enterprise play.
19. **Relationship with Local Government:** Both LEPs and Local Government value their current relationships and are keen for these to remain impactful and relevant. With the change of remit and intent to increase business focus, we will need to consider the future relationship with Local Government, including on boards and how accountability will work.

20. **People implications:** The review will ensure that proper and sensitive account is taken of the implications for those employed in LEPs. It will also consider implications for executive teams and how to retain the support from c1500 business leaders currently engaged in LEP Boards and Sub Boards.

21. **Funding:** What level of funding do the evolved LEPs require? This will include consideration of how institutions should be funded going forward. This will also look at how skills and business support funding will flow in future.

22. **Implementation:** How do we best transition from the current model to this future structure? This will include people, legal and operational considerations in implementing this new model, how to deal with in flight capital projects etc.

**Proposed engagement**

23. Officials will work with Local Enterprise Partnerships, other business representative organisations, Mayoral Combined Authorities and others to hear views on these questions.

24. This will include a series of themed discussions with the LEP Network Board Chairs and Chief Executives between March and June alongside regular informal discussion with the LEP Network and visits to selected LEPs. The LEP Network Chair will lead this series of meetings for the LEP community, supported by the LEP Network Board Chairs and CEOs who will also provide subject matter leads and expertise.

**Governance**

25. This will be a government-led review into the future role of LEPs.

26. As outlined above, advice to ministers will be informed by a joint project between Government officials and LEPs to consider the questions outlined in this Terms of Reference, as well as engagement with other business organisations.

27. The lead minister for the review will be [Minister Scully].

**Output**

28. Ministers expect to set out their future proposals by the Summer and we then expect a new operating model to be in place, at least in part, by financial year 2022/23.
Created by Government, entrusted by Government, led by business, excited for the future

For over 10 years LEPs have formed a unique partnership of over 2,000 business, 180 Local Government and 250 FE/HE leaders to accelerate business-led local growth. These key decision makers have driven infrastructure investment, productivity improvement, skills development, and business support, working with highly capable executive teams to ensure relevance, agility, flexibility, democratic accountability, and value for public money in delivering complex programmes. Collaborating locally, regionally, and nationally, convening partners, balancing agile urgent pandemic response with delivery of business as usual, LEPs’ impact has been significant.

This major local and national asset can now be deployed to deliver the Prime Minister’s Ten Point Plan and the Plan for Growth, with the LEP Review providing an opportunity to refocus these unique partnerships to help the country emerge from the pandemic fitter, greener and more inclusive.

LEPs’ unique, proven capabilities will help Government realise the Plan for Growth

- Enabling the transition from Industrial Strategy to Plan for Growth – LEPs owned Local Industrial Strategies and have already transformed these into Economic Recovery Plans which are now being executed.
- Ensuring the right investments are made and their impacts measured:
  - **Infrastructure**: LEPs provide a business led evidence based strategic framework which can support Local Authorities in their new capital remit in the Levelling Up and Communities Funds. This sort of approach has already been taken with Towns Boards, delivering ground-breaking programmes in places like Truro, Scarborough, Stevenage and 98 other towns.
  - **Skills**: LEPs’ Skills Advisory Panels and relationship with the Careers and Enterprise Company has delivered an impressive Employer Advisor Network, and brought business leaders alongside Universities, FE colleges and apprenticeship scheme providers to shape local courses, ensuring the right skills for the right jobs. Every LEP Board has FE/HE representation.
  - **Innovation**: LEPs’ integrated working with Universities, Catalysts, Catapults, Enterprise Zones and Freeports provides the environment and incentive for the private sector to invest in innovation. Already LEPs have attracted in excess of £8bn private sector investment, alongside public funds.
- Bringing LEPs’ forensic understanding of local economies and social challenge, providing a deep insight into what Levelling Up really means and how to realise it for local communities.
- Harnessing local partners commitment to **Net Zero** including “green credentials” in project assessment and targeting investment, creating capabilities of national and international significance.
- Convening LEPs’ comprehensive sector expertise to contribute to **new strategy formulation**, bringing private sector and academic know how to push boundaries taking informed investment risk decisions that only the unique LEP partnership construct currently offers to Government.
- Continuing to excite over 2,000 leaders from all sizes and forms of business to give their time, shaping local strategy, bringing practical experience of what works, ensuring projects are well scrutinised and using their networks to great effect.
- This level of **business engagement** when added to the major impact LEP Growth Hubs have, especially for SMEs and budding entrepreneurs, is the reason why nearly 4m businesses will interact with LEPs and their Growth Hubs this year, more than most of the commercial BROs combined.

LEPs: Government’s catalyst for the Ten Point Plan and Plan for Growth – together we can Build Back Better

LEPs are the only organisations bringing together business, Local Government, FE and HE in one joined up apolitical team, operating across an economic not political geography, and underpinned by proven Assurance Frameworks. LEPs know that they must evolve along with policy and are enthusiastic for the future. LEPs hold the key to delivery of the Plan for Growth and as Government’s own business led organisation are proven partners when it matters most, collaborating to realise a Global Britain and to Build Back Better.
1. **INTRODUCTION**

This paper seeks approval from the board on the 2021/22 D2N2 LEP Delivery Plan.

The purpose of the Delivery Plan is to set out overarching priorities, key deliverables, and milestones for D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

Subject to any comments from Board members, the board are asked to approve the Delivery Plan for 2021/22.

3. **BACKGROUND**

Each year D2N2 LEP is required to produce an annual delivery plan providing clarity on its areas of activity and transparency on progress to all partners.

It is also a key requirement of our funding from central government and supports our request for partner contributions from our upper tier local authorities.

4. **KEY THEMES**

The Delivery Plan sets out:

- The achievements of D2N2 LEP in 2020/21.
- Current Economic Context in D2N2.
- Overarching strategic priorities within the context of the role of the LEP
- Areas of activity that we will focus on in 2021/22
- Areas of activity we will be directly responsible for delivery in 2021/22.

5. **NEXT STEPS**

Subject to any amendments and comments from board members we will finalise the plan and submit to government.

We will continue to keep the actions under review to ensure we respond to any changes and opportunities during the year.
In December 2020, the LEP, working with partners across the region, we developed our Recovery and Growth Strategy for D2N2. This sets the vision for a low carbon economy that powers the jobs and businesses of the future, to lead the UK’s drive towards net-zero and the Ten-Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.

We are working with partners across the region with the aspiration to offer every person that vital opportunity to unlock their potential. We will capitalise on the unique opportunities presented by the East Midlands Freeport and our bid for an Institute for Technology to drive productivity and deliver an integrated pipeline for talent, skills, and progression at all levels.

The government has begun a review of the future role of LEPs. The review will provide an opportunity to refocus and evolve our role within the region to support a more prosperous, greener, and more inclusive recovery from the pandemic. We will review our delivery plan with our partners to ensure that resources are aligned and we respond to the region’s needs.

Our ongoing commitment to collaboration and partnership working will be crucial. I look forward to continuing our work together to ensure our economy recovers and grows to improve the long-term future opportunities of our region.

Our role is to champion our region’s economic potential, acting as a leader, catalyst, and convener to support a dynamic, sustainable, and growing economy. The past year should give us confidence that we can deliver significant opportunities to our region. We have unlocked over £139 million of additional partner funding through our investments and secured the UK’s only in-land Freeport.

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Our role as a Local Enterprise Partnership is to support the economic growth across Derbyshire, Derby, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Steered by a business-led Board, we work in partnership to create the conditions to attract additional investment to build a stronger economy and unlock opportunities to create future prosperity for the region.

Foreword.

I AM DELIGHTED TO SHARE OUR 2021/22 PLANS FOR THE D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP AND HIGHLIGHT OUR ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR.

Our role is to champion our region’s economic potential, acting as a leader, catalyst, and convener to support a dynamic, sustainable, and growing economy. The past year should give us confidence that we can deliver significant opportunities to our region. We have unlocked over £139 million of additional partner funding through our investments and secured the UK’s only in-land Freeport.

Elizabeth Fagan CBE Chair,
D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership
Our impact.

2020/21 HIGHLIGHTS

The D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership has worked hard to support the D2N2 economy during the Covid-19 outbreak. With the unprecedented scale of the economic shock caused by the crisis, our role is more critical than ever.

We are working closely with local authorities, business representative groups, our universities and colleges, the voluntary sector to help businesses get back on their feet and support individuals to improve their skills and find new jobs.

INCREASED INVESTMENT

We have unlocked over £139 million of additional investment across through our funding programmes, delivering and safeguarding thousands of jobs, homes, learners helping the region bounce back from the coronavirus pandemic and support future growth and investment across the D2N2 region.

ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP

In partnership with the Leicester and Leicestershire LEP (LLEP), we led the successful East Midlands Freeport bid - the UK’s only inland Freeport. Based around East Midlands Airport, the proposal has the potential to create 60,000 jobs and deliver over £2b to the local economy.

SUPPORTED WORKFORCE

We were the first LEP to commission and set up a Redeployment Triage Service to match those made jobless because of the Coronavirus outbreak with new work in sectors experiencing a surge in employment – it has been acknowledged as national best practice by Government.

CHAMPIONED BUSINESS VOICE

We engaged with nearly 3000 new businesses providing access to business support and convened new routes for business groups to share crucial intelligence with Government on issues such as the impact of Covid-19, EU Exit and future skills challenges.
Advantageously located at the heart of the country, with over 2 million people, we have the 5th largest population of any LEP housing, key manufacturers, major employers and thriving small businesses.

Our strong innovation and manufacturing expertise, clustered around Derby, is home to world-leading global aerospace, automotive and rail manufacturers and engineers, including Toyota, Rolls Royce and Alstom (formerly Bombardier).

We are also proud of our growing life sciences cluster - the third-largest in the UK - anchored by Boots plc, MediCity and BioCity in Nottingham, and our emerging digital tech cluster focused on Nottingham’s ‘Creative Quarter’ (12.6% growth between 2012 and 2017).

The D2N2 region is a strongly knowledge-intensive economy. It contains three universities, partner colleges, and a network of cutting-edge science parks, research institutions, businesses, and incubators.

However, there are significant differences in the socio-economic conditions across our communities, with major differences in productivity and a legacy of carbon-intensive industries. The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 lockdown measures on some places and groups - such as women and younger workers - may exacerbate these existing issues.

We do not yet have a firm understanding of the long-term societal impacts of Covid-19, such as how changing patterns of behaviour will affect working patterns, climate change or mental health. We will continue to share intelligence and analysis to understand our changing economy and forecast future impacts.

D2N2 covers a large and diverse area, with outstanding natural assets, and culturally and environmentally rural communities surrounded by vibrant market towns and our two dynamic cities.

WE HAVE MANY OUTSTANDING STRENGTHS

- Our economy is the 4th largest outside London and the South East, with 8.3% growth since 2012.
- Manufacturing generates £7.2bn in GVA, ranking 3rd outside London and the South East.
- 92% of D2N2 workers live in the D2N2 area and 87% of D2N2 residents work in D2N2 travel to work areas.
- 9 million people live within 20 miles of D2N2, and 80% of the country’s population are within 4 hours drive.
- We attract around 3 million visitors and £475m in visitor spending per year, 70% above the Midlands.
- The planned East Midlands Freeport, one of only eight in the UK.

WE KNOW WE HAVE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

- The impact of climate change on our natural assets and society.
- The labour productivity gap is widening with GVA per hour worked 14% below the UK average.
- 54,000 jobs are at high risk of automation with a further 413,000 likely to experience various forms of automation.
- 13 of 17 local authorities within the D2N2 area are identified as ‘social mobility cold spots.’
- 26% higher emissions per capita than the UK average due to the concentration of energy-intensive industries.
- Poor regional rail connectivity, with many slow lines lacking electrification, and many rural areas are bypassed altogether.

The dramatic increase in remote working has exposed further inequalities in the region with pockets of poor rural infrastructure and poor access to devices in many deprived areas.

Improving access to investment finance for early-stage start-up and scale-up businesses with growth potential (East Midlands is currently 12th out of 13 regions for SME equity investment).

Maintaining existing and opening up new export markets for our companies post EU Exit.
2021/22 Delivery Plan

Our priorities 2021/22.

In 2020, the D2N2 LEP launched its Recovery and Growth Strategy. This strategy builds on the foundations of our draft Local Industrial Strategy to reflect the impacts of Covid-19 to ensure we build a robust economy for the future.

We stand ready to deliver more through greater collaboration. Our focus is underpinned by the clear commitments we have made to achieve a zero-carbon economy and be the heart of the UK’s green revolution.

This ambitious green revolution will act as the catalyst for a more productive and inclusive economy from which everyone living in, working in or visiting D2N2 can benefit. With investment in skills, mobility and digital infrastructure, we can ensure a more productive and better-connected workforce.

Our region has strong concentrations in sectors that have been particularly affected by Covid-19. We need to reconsider both which sectors need immediate support to survive and which we can support to deliver future growth. By boosting productivity in our emerging and existing priority sectors, D2N2 could inject an extra £9bn into the economy and support UK Plc to get back on track for growth.

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Our PRIORITIES FOR 2021/22 ARE:

LOW CARBON: Lead and position the region to deliver clean growth - capitalising on our strengths, building links with government and identifying investment.

SKILLS AND CAREERS: Ensure the D2N2 labour market has the right levels of skills and qualifications to meet the needs of businesses in our priority growth sectors.

BUSINESS PRODUCTIVITY: Continue to support business recovery and growth through the D2N2 Growth Hub and take advantage of new global trading opportunities to boost productivity in our key and emerging sectors.

PLACE PROMOTION: Supporting partners to deliver investment in our communities and promoting our region as THE PLACE to invest, grow and prosper.

CONNECTING INNOVATION: Accelerate innovation in the D2N2 area through our Higher Education partnerships to stimulate growth in D2N2 businesses.

DELIVERY EXCELLENCE: Ensure effective delivery of our current investment programmes to ensure all financial, targets and output are delivered.
**D2N2 PRIORITIES**

Driven by our Recovery and Growth Strategy, our priorities will ensure we lead the move to a low carbon economy that powers the jobs and businesses of the future.

1. **LOW CARBON**: Lead and position the region to deliver clean growth - capitalising on our strengths, building links with government and identifying investments.

2. **SKILLS AND CAREERS**: Ensure the D2N2 labour market has the right levels of skills and qualifications to meet the needs of businesses in our priority growth sectors.

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6. **DELIVERY EXCELLENCE**: Ensure effective delivery of our current investment programmes to ensure all financial, targets and output are delivered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENABLERS</th>
<th>Our key enablers underpin our priorities and support how we will deliver at pace and scale to achieve success across all parts of our region.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EVIDENCE AND INTELLIGENCE</strong></td>
<td>Coordinate business intelligence for the D2N2 region, working with partners in business and academia to maintain accurate, robust, and openly accessible data to understand on the needs of our economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS</strong></td>
<td>Convene partners and stakeholders, including through our advisory boards, to influence and champion economic leadership to support key issues relevant to the region, for example the East Midlands Freeport and East Midlands Development Corporation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUPPORTING INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
<td>Champion proposals for investment to achieve our regions full potential, working with partners and stakeholders to improve our economic resilience and drive sustainable economic prosperity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To meet the region’s ambitions, we manage funding from a range of different sources invested through the LEP to identify investments and projects that will regenerate our communities. This section provides a summary of our activities for delivery.

GROWTH FUNDING

LOCAL GROWTH FUND (LGF)

The Government awarded a total of £257.4 million to the D2N2 region from 2015 to 2021 for capital projects to transform the local area and economy. The financial element of the programme has now formally concluded - successfully investing the full programme in support of economic growth ambitions across the D2N2 area.

The following table captures our LGF progress to date:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
<th>2030 TARGET</th>
<th>ACTUALS TO DATE</th>
<th>% OF 2030 TARGET ACHIEVED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jobs created</td>
<td>£29,000</td>
<td>£11,048</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes created</td>
<td>£10,700</td>
<td>£1,727</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learner supported</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>£2,615</td>
<td>130%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The return on investment generated through our Local Growth Fund shows £19 is returned to the local economy for every £1 invested.

GETTING BUILDING FUND (GBF)

In July 2020, The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government confirmed an allocation of £44.4m for D2N2 for a wide-ranging package of projects that can be delivered within 18 months (March 2022) to support the local economy. Profiled spend of £22.2m was achieved in 2020/21 with the approval of seven projects. The focus for 2021/22 will be to work with projects to deliver the remaining funding of £22.2m.

The following three projects are expected to put forward a business case for consideration this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT NAME</th>
<th>TOTAL GBF AMOUNT</th>
<th>MATCH FUNDING</th>
<th>TOTAL PROJECT COST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drakelow Park</td>
<td>£2,600,000</td>
<td>£13,500,00</td>
<td>£16,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smartparc</td>
<td>£12,000,000</td>
<td>£215,000,000</td>
<td>£227,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRC Midlands</td>
<td>£6,850,000</td>
<td>£7,375,000</td>
<td>£14,250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GROWING PLACES FUND

The Growing Places Fund (GPF) loan scheme is a £730m Government-backed national investment fund, put in place to assist stalled transport and infrastructure projects that will boost the local economy, create jobs and build houses.

D2N2 continues to monitor the progress of the both the financial and output milestones for the previously allocated GPF projects. Following the review of LEPs and the funding announcements from HM Government at the budget in March, the LEP will look to review the most effective use of the remaining £24m of Growing Places Funding.

ENTERPRISE ZONES

D2N2 will continue to work with the Enterprise Zone landowners to develop the sites further and attract inward investment through the next year. The LEP has allocated funding towards a new development on the Infinity Park site, which is due to deliver a business case for final funding approval within the financial year.

KEY ACTIONS:

• Continue to monitor the Local Growth Fund programme and its impact to ensure delivery in line with funding agreements.
• Undertake an evaluation of the Local Growth Fund Programme to measure the impact on the D2N2 Economy.
• Agree risk position and contingency planning for the final year of the Getting Building Fund programme.
• Work with local partners and stakeholders, and the D2N2 ESIF subcommittee to bring forward investments and partnerships which can meet project outputs until contracts end in December 2023.
PEOPLE AND SKILLS

The LEP will continue to play an important leadership role in the skills system, developing skills analysis, engaging with employers, the education and skills sector and expanding the work of Enterprise Coordinators.

SKILLS ADVISORY PANELS

Our Skills Advisory Panels bring together local employers and skills providers to pool knowledge on skills and labour market needs to ensure a more responsive skills system and work together to understand and address key local challenges. Following the publication of the D2N2 Local Skills Report in March 2021, the panel is now overseeing the delivery of priorities through three sub-groups: Employment, Skills for Growth, and Careers and Young People.

ENTERPRISE ADVISOR PROGRAMME

The Enterprise Advisor Programme funded by the Careers and Enterprise Company work will continue into 2021/22 with a target to expand coverage to up to 160 schools and education establishments. Key targets for the Enterprise Adviser Network contract, which commences September 2021, are still under negotiation but are outlined as:

### TARGET | ANTICIPATED TARGET
---|---
Total number of schools engaged | 160
% Schools matched to an Enterprise Adviser | 85%
% Schools fully meeting Gatsby Benchmark 1 | 100%
% Schools fully meeting Gatsby Benchmark 5 | 60%
% Schools fully meeting Gatsby Benchmark 6 | 50%
100% Engaged schools using COMPASS+ | 100%

DIGITAL BOOTCAMPS

In January 2021, D2N2 launched a Wave1b pilot of the National Skills Fund to deliver Digital Bootcamps - 12-week intensive skills support to address identified digital skills and labour shortages. Bootcamp delivery has been extended into 2021/22 and a further bid has been submitted to increase delivery and expand into the Greater Lincolnshire area. In advance of decisions on the Wave 2 bids the delivery objectives for 2021/22 are currently:

### TARGET | ANTICIPATED TARGET
---|---
Total number of participants | 210
% Female participants | 50%
% achieving into work or clear in-work progression | 75%
% achieving guaranteed interview | 100%

KEY ACTIONS:

- Ensure that the Skills Advisory Panel fulfils its role in providing key local data to inform skills priorities.
- The successful launch of three new careers hubs to provide complete hub coverage across the LEP area.
- Launch of a new single gateway (Start) to careers information for young people, parents, teachers, and employers across D2N2 in May 2021.
BUSINESS GROWTH AND INNOVATION

We recognise the huge contribution that businesses large and small make to the local economy. We will continue to champion the benefits of innovation, research and development in our key sectors to support our region’s recovery and growth.

GROWTH HUB & ENTERPRISE

Our Growth Hub delivers information, diagnostic and brokerage (IDB) to support firms in improving business performance, upskilling their workforce and boosting growth and productivity. We have commissioned a full review of the D2N2 Growth Hub to complement the national evaluation of the Growth Hub network. The evaluation will monitor progress against strategic objectives and consider options for delivering a client-focused model post the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

D2N2 INVESTOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

D2N2 are working with the Department of International Trade (DIT) and our local authority partners to build relationships with our local foreign owned businesses. Through the D2N2 Investor Development Service we provide a free account management service that can assess investment needs and provide a business health-check as well as providing a conduit to localised Government support.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Complete the mid-term evaluation of the D2N2 Growth Hub and work with partners to implement the recommendations.
- Support businesses to recover from the COVID pandemic through promoting inclusive enterprise and delivering business mentoring programmes such as Peer Networks.
- Retain and grow investment in our region by foreign-owned businesses through our D2N2 Investor Development service.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MARKETING

Through 2021/22, the LEP will build on its new marketing and communications strategy to strengthen our profile and remain focused on our priorities to ensure we are heard louder and more often.

MULTI-CHANNEL COMMUNICATIONS

We will continue our focus on direct, regular, and multi-channel communications to strengthen and actively promote the work and impact of our LEP. Social media, particularly Twitter, will stay in sharp focus in 2021/22. LinkedIn will continue to be priority during 2021/22 with an increase in engaging, branded and themed content.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

As we develop an updated ‘narrative’ for the region, we will create thought leadership articles on topics which D2N2 and partners are seen as experts. These themes will help drive communications activity (especially through PR campaigns) and help to prioritise events and speaking opportunities to pursue.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Effective delivery of the LEP communications and engagement plan, including blogs, news, events, and digital channels.
- Create thought leadership plan to promote the priorities and issues relevant to the region and highlight the expertise of our Board and partners.
- Ensure the successful delivery of the Annual Conference and production of the D2N2 Annual Review.
GOVERNANCE

We have continued to strengthen our overall governance and remain committed to seeking opportunities for continuous improvement across all areas of our work.

All boards, including our three Advisory Boards, have clear terms of reference which are publicly available. The membership of the boards ensures the LEP’s commitment to collaboration and engagement with a breadth of external stakeholders to lead on strategic development and thought leadership for the region.

We have a single accountable body in place that oversees the governance and financial accountability on behalf of the LEP. They have supported the LEP to put in place an independent scrutiny committee with elected representatives from across the region.

LEP REVIEW

In the March 2021 budget, the Government announced a review of LEPs. The review will take place over the first months of the 21/22 financial year and is expected to conclude by the summer. D2N2 LEP will play a full part in working with colleagues in the LEP Network and other partners locally and nationally to make the case for LEPs and the role we play.

D2N2 ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

Our Assurance Framework published in 2020 remains at the core of our governance. We will continue to take the actions required to remain compliant with the Government’s advice. D2N2 LEP will review its policies throughout 2021/22; committed to continuous improvement, high standards of transparency and effective governance.

Inclusion: Within the 2020 Assurance Framework revisions, particular emphasis has been placed upon social inclusion and ensuring that all our activities and investments align with this strategic objective. The D2N2 Inclusion Framework is now fully embedded within our assurance framework and all LEP funded investments are required to demonstrate how they will support inclusive growth ambitions.

Scrutiny: As part of the LEPs ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and the highest standards of stewardship of public funding and policy, D2N2 has remained committed to ongoing scrutiny and will continue this in 2021/22. Independent scrutiny of LEP strategy, governance and delivery is led by elected officials from across the D2N2 area.

D2N2’s Assurance Framework and other documents relating to our governance are available on the D2N2 website.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Ensure our Advisory Boards have a clear work programme and performance monitoring framework in place that is aligned to our strategy.
- Review our Governance Structures and Local Assurance Framework in line with any changes following the LEP Review.
- Publication of annual financial statement and report.
The D2N2 Executive Team is primarily funded from government core funding, which is locally matched by the four upper tier authorities with additional funding through programme funding contributions.

To meet the needs of the LEP and fully implement our governance model, a new team structure was implemented in 2019/20. The structure provides greater support to the board and our advisory groups and supports the enhanced role of the LEP, while remaining affordable and within budget.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>FORECAST 2021/22</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Government Basic Funding</td>
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<td>£500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Authority Funding*</td>
<td>£250,000</td>
<td>£250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from grants</td>
<td>£32,000</td>
<td>£178,878</td>
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<td>Local Growth Fund</td>
<td>£67,427</td>
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<td>Growth Hub</td>
<td>£37,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growing Places Fund</td>
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<td>£5,448</td>
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<tr>
<td>Getting Building Fund</td>
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<td>£33,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest in investments</td>
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<td>£52,194</td>
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<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
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<td>BALANCE IN REVERSE</td>
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<td>TOTAL AVAILABLE</td>
<td>£1,772,060</td>
<td>£1,837,121</td>
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</table>

*£62,500 each for Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>FORECAST 2021/22</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEP Core Staff</td>
<td>£746,113</td>
<td>£651,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenditure</td>
<td>£340,607</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</td>
<td>£1,086,720</td>
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</table>

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The D2N2 LEP is involved in a range of monitoring and evaluation activity, relating to its key project, programmes, and investments. Each Funding Programme has developed its own monitoring and evaluation processes, helping to record specific activities and successes as well as identifying potential risks and any lessons learnt.
1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This report updates the Board on the following areas of activity:

- 2020/21 Annual Performance Review Outcome
- Skills Update
- Business and Innovation Update
- Marketing and Communications Update
- ESF (European Social Fund) update

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 The Board are asked to **NOTE** the activity updates within this report.

3. **2020/21 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OUTCOME**

We have received formal confirmation of the outcome of our annual performance review by Government for the last financial year.

I am pleased to report that the formal assessment has confirmed that we have met all the requirements set by Government across the three areas that we are assessed against – Strategy, Delivery and Governance.

In the coming year the expectation from Government is that we maintain our focus on delivering the areas of activity we are responsible for. These are all set out in the Delivery Plan under item 2.2.

4. **SKILLS UPDATE**

**New Head of People and Skills**

Fiona Baker, currently Head of Strategy at Leicester & Leicestershire LEP is joining us as Head of People and Skills. Fiona joins with extensive experience and background in skills and employment and replaces Rachel Quinn who leaves at the end of May. Fiona is expected to take up the role at the end of July and continuity of work will be supported by theme leads with oversight by myself and Will Morlidge in the interim.

I’d like to formally record my thanks to Rachel for her commitment and contribution to the work of the LEP, especially in furthering the skills and inclusion priorities for the region.

**Support for Careers**
Progress towards the creation of four **Careers Hubs** is being made at pace, which will put in place a co-ordinated approach for connecting employers with schools to inspire and inform future careers for young people.

Local governance is now in place in all four areas and funding to support the model has now been confirmed with the Careers & Enterprise Company. Match funding for the project has been secured by aligning all staff to the ESF-funded Unlocking Potential project.

**Start in D2N2** is now ready for launch and will provide a single gateway to all career's information.

**Digital Bootcamps**

Early reporting from the pilot **Digital Bootcamps** show the project has been successful despite short delivery timescales. 408 participants took part, of which 83% completed the course and of those approx. 50% have already progressed into higher learning, employment, or in-work progression (target 75% - data still being received and participants will continue to be tracked for 6 months so this outcome is expected to increase). An ambitious target of 50% female participants resulted in 51% in the final numbers. Continuation funding has been secured and the team await the outcome of a larger tender to increase capacity and extend provision across Lincolnshire, which is expected in May.

**Skills Accelerator: testing a new approach to shape technical skills**

A pilot for Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) was announced in the Skills for Jobs White Paper, aimed at shaping technical skills provision through collaboration between colleges, independent training providers and employers.

The team are currently working with East Midlands Chamber and all colleges in D2N2 to ensure a proposal to test the new approach across D2N2 is submitted.

The deadline for submission is 25 May 2021 and the proposal must build on the work of Skills Advisory Panels.

### 4 BUSINESS AND INNOVATION UPDATE

**Growth Hub – Supporting Business**

The level of enquiries received from **SME (Small and Medium Enterprises)**, by the Growth Hub Enquiry Team remain high at around 200 per week. Many are still seeking ‘survival’ support (mainly grant related), but the emphasis tends to be on future planning/strategy and access to finance options. Encouragingly, we continue to take half a dozen calls each week from new start-ups.

The **D2N2 Business Investment Fund** continues to attract a consistent flow of new applications, with around 10 new expressions of interest submitted each month, which suggests a continued focus on businesses ‘step-changing’ their activity. In March, we were able to increase the maximum grant from £20k to £30k, allowing us to support four larger grant awards immediately.
We have recruited a second BAME Adviser who is focussing on Derby City to bolster the excellent engagement seen via a similar post in Nottingham City. They are working with existing networks to bolster the engagement of BAME-led businesses in business support. A further report detailing their impact will be presented to a future Board meeting.

The Peer Network Programme delivered between Jan-March was an enormous success with over 200 businesses engaged on a variety of cohorts. BEIS have announced phase 2 funding and we will deliver at least 17 cohorts during 2021/22.

We continue to work closely with our East Midlands Cluster colleagues in GLLEP (Greater Lincolnshire) and LLEP (Leicestershire & Leicester City) and have extended the support available via the East Midlands Business Resilience Programme, focussing on EU Transition impacts and building future resilience more generally. Since the start of 2020, 60 D2N2 SMEs have attended events through this programme and 30 have received 1-2-1 advice. Additionally, 300 hours of support has been provided to D2N2 SMEs specifically about EU Transition by utilising BEIS funding for more advisory resources during Jan-March.

Following competitive tendering, Insight Works Ltd have been appointed to undertake the D2N2 Growth Hub Mid-Term Review. The commission will independently review progress against the Growth Hub Strategic Framework; the effectiveness of service delivery to clients and provide options for development following the end of ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funded activity.

**East Midlands Manufacturing Framework**

Following endorsement of the proposed East Midlands Manufacturing Framework by the Business and Innovation Advisory Board, a D2N2 manufacturing advisory panel is being set up. This panel will identify priorities and activity to support promotion and uptake of industrial digitalisation. The panel will work closely with the new Low Carbon Growth and Innovation Theme Groups to ensure our business base is supported in the key areas of digitalisation and net zero. Exploratory discussions have started at East Midlands level, with neighbouring LEPs to develop an East Midlands Manufacturing Summit and regional campaign to support these key priorities.

**International Business Investment**

The first delivery phase of the D2N2 Investor Development service has now ended. It is supported through the DIT Midlands Engine Key Account Management (KAM) programme. The service aims to encourage further inward investment into our region from foreign-owned businesses. It does this by providing a tailored key account service working closely with relevant local authority partners. The service has now developed a cohort of 30 businesses for support and helped deliver 3 investment projects in 2020/21 with a further 4 in the pipeline.

5. **MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Many of our partners have been in election purdah since the end of March, which has caused a noticeable reduction in new stories and press releases. Nevertheless,
the communications team has continued to find opportunities to increase our profile and amplify our role in supporting the region. As a result, we have generated more news content compared to March and April 2020, together with an increase in the number of people viewing it, including a noticeable spike in our LinkedIn engagement.

We continue to collaborate with comms teams across the region to maximise opportunities to highlight and champion key issues and positive news within the region. Since the last board meeting this included working with Midlands Connect, East Midlands Development Corporation, Nottingham Castle, Museum of Making, Nottingham City Council, and Nottingham Trent University.

As we look ahead, we are starting preparations for our Annual Report and AGM (Annual General Meeting) in September with a focus on our past year’s successes.

6. D2N2 ESF Reserve fund open calls

We have secured £8 million from the national ESF Reserve Fund for employment and skills issues emerging from the Covid 19 pandemic.

The following calls are now live for applications.

- **Covid 19 employment programme for adults** - £2m of ESF, closes 10 May 2021.
  Projects to improve progression into the labour market for adults recently made redundant or unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic through innovative and vocationally based skills activity leading to employment.

- **Covid 19 programme for young people** - £2m of ESF, closes 10 May 2021.
  Projects to improve progression into the labour market for young people aged 16 to 24 who have been disproportionately adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Apprenticeship and Jobs Hub** - £2m of ESF, closes 10 June 2021.
  For employers to increase the number of apprenticeship and skilled job opportunities across D2N2 which have seen a significant decline because of Covid 19.

- **Skills for Productivity** - £2m of ESF, closes 10 June 2021.
  To secure a higher-level skills development programme for SMEs to support greater business innovation, productivity, and growth in the post Covid 19 economy.

We are working with prospective applicants and the Managing Authority to bring forward high quality applications from strong delivery partnerships for the calls.

Sajeeda Rose

Chief Executive Officer

19 May 2021
DATE: 19 May 2021
REPORT LEAD: Sajeeda Rose
AGENDA ITEM: 2.4

TITLE: Capital Programme Performance Update

1 Introduction
This paper provides an update on the performance of the D2N2 Capital Programme since the Board meeting of the 23rd of March 2021.

2 Recommendation
The Board are recommended to note the report and the contents provided.

3 Local Growth Fund (LGF)

3.1 Performance Update
We have now come to the end of the LGF programme which ran from 2015-2021 and can confirm that we have used the full £250.7m allocated to the D2N2 region by Government by the March 2021 deadline.

Quarter 4 monitoring returns have now been submitted by project sponsors which confirm that all projects have used their individual allocations. We had built in a level of overprogramming to mitigate against the risk of any delays and underspend, but I'm pleased to report that all projects have used their full allocation. Therefore, the programme was £1.8m overspent which will be funded using a previously agreed allocation from the Growing Places Fund.

As the financial element of the LGF programme has now been concluded we will start the process of conducting the initial evaluation of projects to date.

D2N2 officers will carry out the evaluation with project sponsors and feedback the findings to a later meeting.

3.2 LGF project progress
The delivery of projects within the LGF programme continues to progress well.

Project outputs are continuing to be delivered in line with contractual targets.

To date we have delivered the following outputs:
- Jobs – 10,489 (98% of the target to date)
- Homes – 1,316 (34% of the target to date)
- Learners – 2,122 (101% of the target to date)
Regarding individual projects, the following notable progress has been seen across the programme in the last financial year:

- **Buxton Crescent** – The new 80-bedroom hotel opened prior to the last national lockdown and welcomed the first set of guests into the new facility. The facility has since been closed to the public but is looking to reopen in line with national guidelines, 106 of the committed 140 jobs for the project have been created to date.

- **Nottingham City Hub** – The new City Hub was opened to students following the winter break after a minor delay in the build programme due to Covid. The works on site had a minor delay due to the pandemic and students have now started to use the facility.

- **Silk Mill Museum of Making** – The new visitor attraction in Derby City Centre has now completed the renovation works and is due to open its doors to the public on the 21st of May. Due to the current restrictions, Derby Museums intend to host a full and larger scale opening event in September in line with the Derby Feste.

- **Nottingham Castle** – Following the three years of works on the major overhaul of the castle, the new and improved facilities are due to open to the public on the 21st of June subject to the continued easing of government restrictions.

- **NTU (Nottingham Trent University) MTIF Centre** – Both sites of the dual Medical Technology and Innovation Facility have now opened at the NTU Clifton Campus and Boots Enterprise Zone, respectively. The project has welcomed new businesses into the facilities and will continue to promote the space for prospective businesses in the sector. 18 jobs are now registered to the project from the latest monitoring return and the project is progressing ahead of its output schedule.

### 4.0 Getting Building Fund - Progress Update

Following the last meeting of the Investment Board in March we have now approved 7 of the 10 projects in the Getting Building Fund allocation. We continue to monitor the progress of the remaining projects yet to be approved to ensure their prompt delivery and ability to use funding before March 31st, 2022.

Overall progress of the projects that have been approved so far is good, with projects progressing to schedule.
Introduction

1. This briefing note provides progress updates on:
   - The conclusion of the East Midlands Development Corporation (EMDC) Programme, which culminated in the submission of the Business Case to Government on 19 March 2021, and
   - The establishment of the interim vehicle, EM DevCo Ltd, which will take forward early delivery, prior to the creations of a statutory Locally Led, Urban Development Corporation (LLUDC).

East Midlands Development Corporation (EMDC) Programme:

2. During the two years of the Government funded EMDC programme, a compelling business case has been developed, in collaboration with an expert consultancy team and partners. This business case sets out, to Government, how a new LLUDC model for the East Midlands will meet the criteria for public-sector intervention. It includes a value for money assessment, commercial viability; financial affordability; and a route to delivery. The business case, is aligned with other regional activity, complements the Freeport proposition; and sensitivity analysis demonstrates that the programme is not overly reliant on HS2.

3. Following approval by the Alchemy Board on 29 January 2021, the Chair, Sir John Peace submitted the final version of the Business Case to the Secretary of State on 19th March 2021. The business case submission included four key requests to Government.
   - funding for the interim vehicle
   - to progress legislation to establish the LLUDC
   - approval for 100% local retention of Business Rates in the EMDC area
   - In-principle commitment to project funding for EMDC programmes.

Since submission, strong engagement has been maintained with Government and on 20 April 2021, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, wrote to Sir John Peace to acknowledge receipt of the business case and confirmed that his officials are exploring funding options for the Development Corporation.

Interim Vehicle - EM Dev Co Ltd

4. Following approval by the Alchemy Board and separately by the five owning local authorities listed below, EM DevCo Ltd has now been formally incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). The five owning authorities have between them committed £1.5m per annum for the next three years and as outlined in section 4 above, further funding is being considered by Government.
Owning Authorities:
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- North West Leicestershire District Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Rushcliffe Borough Council

5. As previously reported, EM DevCo Ltd will act as an interim vehicle to maintain momentum and drive forward the proposition whilst the Parliamentary processes to establish the new model of LLUDC take place. It is intended for the company to lay the foundations for the LLUDC over the next 2-3 years.

6. The interim vehicle will mirror the governance model for the LLUDC. This includes the establishment of an ‘Oversight Authority’ of Members and an independent/private sector led skills-based board of Directors, which will lead the company’s operational delivery.

7. The inaugural Oversight Authority meeting took place on 20 April 2021 and approved EM DevCo’s year one business plan and budget.

8. Key next steps include the recruitment of the Managing Director of EM DevCo and the core team and six volunteer independent Non-Executive Directors, one of whom will be Chair. They will join the five already appointed Local Authority Directors on EM DevCo Board.

Alchemy Board

9. During 2020/21, an Alchemy Prospectus was agreed as the basis for taking forward a strategic conversation at a regional scale. This highlighted five key themes to be developed further including Connectivity; Natural Capital – Net Gains; Zero; Health; and Skills. The governance for this is being reviewed as part of the transitional arrangements with Midlands Engine and East Midlands Councils supporting this workstream.

Future Project Governance Meetings

Alchemy Board Meetings

- Thursday 29th April 2021, 13:30-15:30
- Monday 12th July 2021, 14.30-16.30
- Friday 8th October 2021, 11:00-13:00 (to be rearranged due to availability)
- Friday 21st January 2022, 11:00-13:00

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact Ken Harrison, Programme Director. Ken.Harrison@nottscc.gov.uk