



Scrutiny Policy January 2023

The D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership

Introduction

This document outlines the scrutiny arrangements of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and the processes to ensure that local checks and balances are in place to hold the LEP to account over its management of public funds.

Background

Thirty-Eight Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) were established across England to enable partnerships between the public and private sector with a particular focus to drive and enable Local Economic Growth. LEPs are responsible for the delivery of over £12 billion of public funding through the Local Growth Fund (LGF) and channelling multiple other funds into the area.

All LEPs are governed by the National Assurance Framework (NAF) which sets out the expectations of how LEPs govern themselves through their Local Assurance Frameworks (LAF), this document was last updated in January 2019. The NAF strongly encourages LEPs to have an independent scrutiny committee in place which will have oversight of the delivery of public funds and will provide challenge and transparency to the delivery of these funds.

The Ney Review of October 2017 re-emphasised the importance of independent scrutiny and evaluation. The review identified the need for the use of scrutiny to monitor decision making and the progress of LEPs. Within the revised guidance of the National Assurance Framework (Version 3), it is stated that LEPs should participate in relevant Local Authority Scrutiny arrangements to guarantee the effective and appropriate democratic scrutiny of their investment decisions is upheld.

D2N2 Scrutiny Arrangements

In line with the D2N2 Local Assurance Framework which states “The LEP will utilise both Scrutiny and Audit committee arrangements within Derbyshire County Council, this will also be extended to the chairs of the scrutiny committees across D2N2. The Scrutiny Committee will review the LEP’s governance and performance of its funding streams.”

D2N2 LEP, in conjunction with its Accountable Body, has agreed to create a working group from Derbyshire County Council’s existing scrutiny function which in line with the LAF will deliver the formal scrutiny function.

Following the 30th of September 2019 Investment Board, it was agreed that a scrutiny committee which invited all Local Authority Scrutiny Chairs from across

D2N2 would be established. Subsequently, all Local Authorities have been offered to nominate a representative to sit as part of the D2N2 scrutiny working group.

The first meeting of the group took place on the 2nd of December 2019 and was tasked to review and scrutinise the delivery of the Local Growth Fund in particular. The Board met with several representatives from across the D2N2 LEP area from existing local authority scrutiny committees. The LEP and Accountable Body will keep an open membership process where Local Authorities can nominate elected members to become a working group representative at any time.

Transparency and Governance

All meetings will be held in the public domain with agendas and minutes of the meeting to be published through Derbyshire County Council as the Accountable Body.

The group has been established and will meet twice a year with the option for further meetings should the working group request them.

Further Scrutiny Arrangements

As stated in the Local Assurance Framework “The LEP will also make an open offer to attend other Local Authority Scrutiny Committees in their area and attend when requested.”