

## Key Decision/Action Points from Board

### D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, 27 January, 2021

By Teams Dial-In

Chair Elizabeth Fagan CBE

Minutes Sally Hallam

## 1. Present and Apologies

### D2N2 Board Members in Attendance

James Brand	Business Representative
Graham Cartledge CBE	Business Representative
Andrew Cropley	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
Clare James, MBE	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
Emma Rigler	Business Representative
Viv Russell	Business Representative
Cllr Simon Robinson	Rushcliffe Borough Council, N2 representative
Prof Shearer West, CBE	HE Representative
David Wright	Area Lead D2N2, BEIS
Susan Caldwell	LEP Sponsor, DIT

### Also in attendance

Gill Callingham	rep for N E Derbyshire DC
Anthony May	CEO, Nottinghamshire County Council
Kath Marriott	CEO, Rushcliffe Borough Council
David Fletcher	rep for Derby City Council
Scott Knowles	CEO, East Midlands Chamber
Nicki Jenkins	rep for Nottingham City Council

### Officer Support

Sajeeda Rose	Chief Executive, D2N2
Tom Goshawk	Head of Capital Programmes, D2N2

Frank Horsley  
Michelle Reynolds  
Rachel Quinn  
Rob Harding

Head of Business and Innovation, D2N2  
Operations Manager, D2N2  
Head of People and Skills, D2N2  
Head of Marketing and Communications, D2N2

## **Apologies**

Apologies were received from David Williams.

### **1.1 Welcome and Introductions**

Elizabeth Fagan welcomed all to the meeting, extending a particular welcome to Clare James who was attending her first Board. Observer Becky Rix who would be joining the Board from March was also introduced briefly to the group.

### **1.2 Declarations of interest**

The Chair reminded all Members that Declarations of Interest should be stated to be recorded where an interest arose.

Tim Freeman and Clare James both declared interests in the Freeport bid and took no part in any discussion during that section of the meeting.

LEP Sponsor, Susan Caldwell also declared an interest in Freeport due to DIT's involvement in the evaluation of bids.

### **1.3 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 November, 2020 were confirmed as a true record and actions were confirmed as having been completed.

## **2. Strategic Discussion**

### **2.1 Chair's Report**

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

- i) Board Recruitment;
- ii) Recovery and Growth Plan including focus on low carbon;
- iii) East Midlands Freeport update;
- iv) Advisory Boards update;

v) Partner engagement.

i) Board Recruitment

The Chair confirmed that new Board member, Clare James, MBE from East Midlands Airport had now replaced Karen Smart and offered her the opportunity to introduce herself briefly to the group. EF also thanked outgoing Board member, Emma Rigler who was attending her final meeting today, putting on record particular thanks for her work in supporting D2N2 to strengthen engagement in North Nottinghamshire.

ii) Recovery and Growth Plan – including low carbon

EF referred Board to the work under way to develop action plans for each Advisory Body based on the Economic Growth and Recovery Strategy (ERGS), paying particular attention to green growth and progressing delivery of the low-carbon ambitions within ERGS.

Emma Rigler and Will Morlidge gave a joint slide presentation reviewing the approach to delivering on low carbon within ERGS. WM introduced to the Board 6 key actions that D2N2 intended to progress, namely:

1. **Low-carbon Freeport bid:** ensuring that low carbon was embedded across the bid, from having on-site green energy production and encouraging businesses in low carbon sectors to locate within the freeport through to building on existing best practice from Toyota and others to use the sites to promote biodiversity.
2. **Support for Institute of Technology bid:** to increase the range of low carbon and digital skills being delivered to support key sites such as Ratcliffe and key programmes such as Derby's proposal to become the UK's centre for future fuels.
3. **Support for Midlands Energy Hub retrofit programme:** the Energy Hub had been awarded funding from Government for both the skills and capital elements of a retrofit programme, so D2N2 was looking for opportunities to increase scale and/or pace of delivery.
4. **Work on modern methods of construction with Homes England:** to bring together knowledge of the various small scale investment sites across D2N2 into a larger investment portfolio with greater certainty of supply, in conjunction with investigating potential new models of funding for MMC sites, to help de-risk commercial investments and to develop a complementary skills programme.
5. **Decarbonising the footprint of quarrying throughout the area:** working with Midlands Engine to scope an approach to the decarbonisation of vehicle fleets in quarries across the Midlands both to benefit the sector directly and to bring additional demand to incentive low carbon fuel supply.
6. **Developing a low-carbon Gigafactory proposition:** for a large scale plant to support the supply chain for low carbon manufacturing, construction and/or electricity generation.

A short discussion followed on the role D2N2 would play working alongside local authority partners to bring all threads of the low carbon strategy together across D2N2. There was general agreement that the region already had a number of excellent low

carbon initiatives.

The Board agreed that the D2N2 role remained to identify and tackle gaps in supply, demand, or skills and to enable delivery by local partners. What was needed specifically was clear branding and consistent messaging across the area. Inclusion lead, Michele Farmer offered to share her insights into this from experience of work outside this region.

iii) East Midlands Freeport Update

EF referred to the notes in her report and to the presentation that would follow later in the meeting.

iv) Advisory Boards Update

EF drew attention to notes within her report detailing current activity within each of the Advisory Boards and invited any additional comments.

Viv Russell for Innovation and Business Growth noted that AB and its focus groups were working well and that meetings had been enriched by informative presentations. He thanked Growth Hub staff for their work in supporting businesses throughout the pandemic.

Prof West for People and Skills highlighted work on the Institute of Technology bid and reported that a meeting was due to take place between colleges and university partners to map skills to low carbon.

Andrew Cropley commented on the Skills for Jobs White Paper now out and confirmed that the FE sector had broadly welcomed the Paper's initiative to put employers at the heart of setting educational standards for life. He voiced some concern that the focus on inclusion of young people had not been matched with an equal focus on addressing engagement of adults with FE.

Rachel Quinn confirmed that the White Paper aligned with D2N2's ambition to bring employers and skills providers together. She also drew attention to the support for CEC within it, noting that D2N2 now had a strong strategy for moving to 4 careers hubs.

Scott Knowles agreed with AC's concerns on adult inclusion and noted that due to current restrictions, employers were unsure whether placements would be required.

**ACTION:** RQ/SK/AC to pick up discussion outside of the meeting.

EF invited David Wright from BEIS to provide any updates on the UKSPF or levelling up.

DW confirmed that prospectuses for both were due soon, but no specific date information was currently available. Based on the speed of turnaround with the Getting Building Fund, he recommended a call to action to get a pipeline of potential projects

as ready as possible to capitalise on funding opportunities that would appear quickly.

v) Partner Engagement

Board noted that partner dialogues were ongoing including with local authority Leaders, University VCs, Midlands Engine, EM LEP Chairs and D2N2 MPs, the latter having meetings that week and the following week.

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

## 2.2 Chief Executive's Report

Sajeeda Rose presented her report updating Board on items including:

- a) Skills Update;
- b) Business and Innovation Update;
- c) Marketing and Communications Update;
- d) ESIF Update;
- e) D2N2 Future High Street and Towns Fund Update

and referred members to the notes under each item.

On Digital Skills, SR drew Board's attention to the successful bid for funding and reported that the LEP had now been invited to bid for a further extension of funding with a bid deadline of 12 February, 2021.

On the continuing work of the Growth Hub, SR highlighted both support given to businesses due to the pandemic and more positively, to those businesses looking to grow in the future by means of application to the Business Investment Fund. Government continued to invest in the Growth Hub model enabling it to proactively support our SMEs eg with transition support around EU exit.

Work was ongoing with EMC, CBI, FSB, and other networks to address persistent issues identified by the British Business Bank in local SME investment readiness and to ensure that they received the support they required to access appropriate equity funding for longer-term sustainability and growth.

On Marketing and Comms, SR recorded thanks to all for work on the AGM, positive feedback on which could be accessed via the website link.

On final ESIF monies, the CEO confirmed that £8m of final contracting was under way, with support going to a range of projects that would address many of the challenges faced by individuals from the impact of Covid-19.

On Future High Street funding, SR reported that 7 of the 8 bids from the D2N2 area had successfully secured two-thirds of funding bid for and work was now under way towards the submission of finalised reports.

Separately, Government had allocated a number of towns who were invited to bid for Towns Funding. Board was advised that the LEP had shared information across towns to assist with planning and bid development. Coalville in Leicestershire, as the only town in the county with allocated towns fund status, had also been invited to work with the group of towns collectively and to share best practice.

Board **NOTED** the report.

### **2.3 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 9 December and 13 January, 2021.

She reminded Board that the IB oversees and approves projects which then come before main Board for final endorsement. Papers from the Investment Board are now sent to all Members for information.

On LGF, Board was informed that spending was on track in the final year of this 5-year programme, with £32m of allocated £40m now spent and a contingency overprogramming of £1.8m to allow for slippages.

The Annual Conversation with BEIS was due on 2 February, 2021 key areas of focus for discussion being Strategy, Governance and Delivery. Notable outcomes would be reported back to the next Board meeting in March.

SR invited Tom Goshawk to talk the Board through summary slides relating to two projects, namely the Worksop Access to Skills Hub (WASH) project and the Becketwell project. Board was also invited to consider and approve written procedures for projects presented for approval to the February and March IBs, to enable projects to progress spend before the end of the 2020/21 Financial Year.

1. WASH project:

£3.5m GBF towards overall project cost of £3.9m for a state of the art skills and education hub in Worksop town centre, providing for 300 new learners pa and creating/safeguarding 50 jobs;

2. Becketwell project:

£8.1m of total £13.371m Local Growth Funding to redevelop the Duckworth Square site in Derby, providing 259 new homes and creating 250 jobs. Phase 1 would commence in April, 2021.

Cllr Poulter confirmed the enthusiasm of Derby City Council for Becketwell as a catalyst for Derby City's regeneration and potential to attract inward investment to a site that had lain derelict for 25 years.

Board **NOTED** the progress of the D2N2 Capital Programme and in particular the upcoming Annual Performance Review.

Board **NOTED** the approval of the A46 Corridor – Chapel Lane Bingham project by written procedures in December, 2020.

Board **RATIFIED AND CONFIRMED** the decision of the Investment Board to invest £3,500,000 of Getting Building Fund to the Worksop Access to Skills Hub Project.

Board **RATIFIED AND CONFIRMED** the decision of the Investment Board to invest £8,100,000 of Local Growth Fund to the Becketwell Project and finalise the completion of the conversion from a pre-compliance agreement to the final contract. Board **AGREED** to allow written procedures for projects to be approved at the February and March, 2021 Investment Boards to enable projects to progress spend before the end of the 2020/21 Financial Year.

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

Anthony May introduced his update report to Board, noting that the Business Case would be presented to the Oversight Board on 29 January, 2021. Subject to their approval, the Business Case would then be submitted to Government by March, 2021.

Meanwhile, agreement had been reached with the 5 affected local authorities to establish a company limited by guarantee to maintain momentum on projects. Ongoing work in support of the proposed Freeport would continue alongside the introduction of the Interim Vehicle. He stressed that as the same Ministerial teams would consider both the Interim Vehicle and Freeport, much work had been undertaken to ensure that the two aligned.

In response to a question from Graham Cartledge on the impact of the current HS2 situation on one or both, AM responded to confirm that lobbying, backed up with good quality evidence seemed to be having impact. Cllr Cutts reiterated the need to keep up momentum on this.

Board **RECEIVED** the report.

### **3. Any other business**

None

#### **4. Freeport Update Presentation (Exempt item)**

Board heard a confidential presentation by Dan Aylward-Mills of Vivid Economics covering an overview of development of the East Midlands Freeport bid and had the opportunity to discuss and ask questions.

#### **5. Date of next meeting**

Tue 23 March, 2021.