

Key Decision/Action Points from Board

D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, 19 May, 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
Andrew Cropley	F E Representative
Michele Farmer	Inclusion and Diversity Representative
Tim Freeman	Business Representative
Clare James	Business Representative
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
David Williams	Deputy Chair/Business Representative
Susan Caldwell	LEP Sponsor

Also in attendance

Cllr Keith Girling	Observer, Nottinghamshire County Council
Scott Knowles	CEO, East Midlands Chamber
Gill Callingham	Director at N E Derbyshire DC
Anthony May	CEO, Nottinghamshire County Council
Adrian Smith	Deputy CEO Nottinghamshire County Council
Cara Prendergast	rep for Rushcliffe Borough Council
David Fletcher	Director at Derby City Council
Nicki Jenkins	Director at Nottingham City Council
Emma Alexander	Executive Director, Derbyshire County Council

Officer Support

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

Will Morlidge
Michelle Reynolds
Rob Harding
Kiran Birring

Head of Policy and Strategy
Operations Manager, D2N2
Head of Marketing and Communications, D2N2
D2N2 Investor Development Co-ordinator

Apologies

Apologies were received from Board members Graham Cartledge, Cllr Alex Dale, Cllr Barry Lewis, and Chris Lowry.

1.1 Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth Fagan welcomed all to the meeting, extending particular welcomes to LEP Sponsor, Susan Caldwell and to Cllr Keith Girling of Nottinghamshire County Council, who was attending this meeting in an observer capacity prior to being formally sworn in at the end of the month as Chair of Nottinghamshire's new Economic Development and Strategic Asset Management Committee and representative on D2N2 Board thereafter.

Cllr Girling would be replacing Cllr. Kay Cutts who had stepped down as the leader of Nottinghamshire County Council. The chair had written to Cllr Cutts to thank her for her contribution as a board member and formally recorded her thanks on behalf of the board and executive.

1.2 Declarations of interest

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

No declarations were made.

1.3 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March, 2021 were confirmed as a true record and actions were confirmed as having been completed.

2.1 Chair's Report

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

- i) LEP Review;
- ii) East Midlands Freeport;

- iii) Advisory Boards update;
- iv) Partner engagement.

i) LEP Review

The Chair informed Members that following changes to the function of LEPs signalled in the Government's March Budget, work was now under way to conduct the review of LEPs under Minister, Paul Scully had been confirmed as the lead minister overseeing the LEP Review with a review outcome expected by August, 2021 for implementation from 1 April, 2022.

In parallel to the LEP review, Neil O'Brien, MP for Market Harborough had been appointed to head up a unit leading on the Levelling up white paper which was due in the Autumn which is also likely to have implications on the future role of LEPs.

A number of roundtable information-gathering sessions were under way with stakeholder representatives including local authorities and business representative organisations.

EF invited Sajeeda Rose to deliver a short slide presentation outlining the areas of focus and proposed functions for LEPs going forward, before seeking comments from Members.

SR took Board through a presentation outlining the 4 workstreams, namely Objectives and Functions, Geographies and Accountabilities, Representation and Interaction with Local Government and Implementation and Funding.

The focus was currently on the first of these workstreams, where clarity on objectives would inform functions and implementation.

Three proposed functions were being put forward, namely:

- 1 Continuing to fulfil a strategic role, providing Place-based economic expertise;
- 2 Identifying key local sectors and industries, then designing and delivering interventions to make them more competitive; and
- 3 Co-ordinating tailored support for local businesses, ensuring the local offer meets local needs. With this proposed function, consistency across all LEPs was key.

Scott Knowles confirmed to Board that the roundtable meeting he had attended had included an eclectic mix of delegates from business, the universities, and local authorities. He felt that the meeting had been balanced, with feedback from all recognising the need for an entity to be a co-ordinating body beyond local authority boundaries. Intelligence from other Chamber contacts suggested that the roundtables were script-driven, with the same questions being asked at each meeting.

Cllr Robinson voiced some concern by districts on how best to interact with LEPs going forward in light of funding being re-routed through local authorities. He recorded thanks to LEP staff for their ongoing support with selecting and shortlisting projects for bids.

Andrew Cropley highlighted an area where the LEP could support by providing a co-ordinating role in identifying and disseminating information on bids and funding opportunities across the whole D2N2 area.

Cllr Poulter expressed a desire to contribute to the review process and requested a meeting with civil servants with the board so that board members could contribute directly.

EF confirmed that the review was Westminster led and local LEPs had no involvement in the roundtables that were being held. She undertook to follow up with Rowena Limb on behalf of Members to ensure that they had an opportunity to feed into the information that would ultimately be sent back to Ministers.

ACTION: arrange feed in session for LEP Board with BEIS Area Director (SR/SH).

ii) East Midlands Freeport

EF referred Board to the notes in her report.

Clare James reported that the priority for the airport was to get a Freeport Board established quickly and progress to key principles of operation. Two names had been submitted for Chair of the new Board and a decision was awaited from Leicestershire County Council. They were pushing for LEP representation on the Board going forward to ensure regional coalescence of the vision, and confirmed that there would be representation from the Development Corporation to ensure alignment.

Cllr Mellen drew attention to the need for those outside the direct influence of the six participating authorities but within the Freeport catchment area to have a voice in development. This was particularly relevant for the two cities of Nottingham and Derby, given the deprivation index for both and concerns over potential displacement within the catchment area.

iii) Advisory Boards Update

EF noted that all Advisory Boards would be meeting again in June and referred Members to the written report.

David Williams for Place Board confirmed the focus of attention on pursuing a green energy strategy for the region via the re-shaped Low Carbon Growth Group, as well as a housing strategy to address local need focusing on modern methods of construction.

Viv Russell for Business Growth and Innovation Board highlighted work on Access to Finance, investor readiness and internationalisation strategy as key areas of work for this group.

Partner Engagement

EF drew attention to the importance of the continuing good engagement with MPs from both sides of the House given their increased role in influencing funding.

On inclusion, Michele Farmer informed Board of a positive meeting with Public Health England and indicated that data would follow for Board to show progress being made with the inclusion agenda.

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

2.2 Delivery Plan 2021/22

Sajeeda Rose referred Members to the summary report and draft Delivery Plan as circulated and sought comments from them prior to approving finalisation of the Plan for submission to Government. She delivered a short slide presentation highlighting the priorities building on the recovery and growth strategy and mirrored the work of the Advisory Boards in areas such as low carbon and skills and underlined again the LEP's continuing role in championing the work of partners on matters including inward investment and connectivity. It also set out the contractual delivery obligations for D2N2 in 2021/22.

Michele Farmer recommended that we strengthen the reference to inclusion within the delivery plan.

Board **APPROVED** the Delivery Plan for 2021/22.

2.3 Chief Executive's Report

Sajeeda Rose presented her report updating Board on items including:

- a) 2020/21 Annual Performance Review Outcome;
- b) Skills update;
- c) Business and Innovation update;
- d) Marketing and Communications update;
- e) ESF update

and referred members to the detailed notes under each item.

She drew attention to the formal confirmation received from Government that D2N2 had met all of its targets on strategy, delivery and governance and would now continue to focus on delivering those areas for which it had responsibility as set out in the Delivery Plan.

Under Skills, Board was advised that Fiona Baker of Leicester and Leicestershire LEP would be taking up post as the new Head of People and Skills from the end of

July, 2021. SR recorded thanks to Rachel Quinn for pulling together a challenging area of work to lead both regionally and nationally.

Under Business and Innovation, Board noted that a new Manufacturing Advisory Panel was being set up to support the sector around digitalisation and automation.

ACTION: Frank Horsley to invite West Notts College to join the Manufacturing Advisory Board.

Board **NOTED** the report.

2.4 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 programmes since the March Board meeting.

SR confirmed the conclusion of the Local Growth Fund programme, with all projects delivered and no underspend returned. Work was now under way to evaluate how projects were progressing. Due to the pandemic, actual visiting of flagship programmes that were open, such as Buxton Crescent, had yet to take place. The Silk Mill was opening on 21 May and Nottingham Castle in June.

On the allocation of £44m GBF from last July, SR reported that 7 of 10 projects had now been approved, whilst 3 remaining projects (Smartparc, NAMRC and Drakelow) were on track and progressing well, leading to high confidence that all £44m would be delivered.

EF recorded thanks to SR and the team for the quality of the work in conjunction with partners to ensure sustainable delivery of our investment programmes and development of a pipeline of projects to mitigate the risk of any shortfalls, which had resulted in turning around previous under-performance. The next stage would be to focus on delivery of the outcomes from our investment to ensure the benefits were realised across the region.

Board **NOTED** the update report.

2.5 Development Corporation Update

Anthony May referred Board to his written report and spoke briefly to summary slides updating Members on work to create EM Dev Co Ltd. Co-funded by local partners, this interim vehicle was now a legal entity which would complete further work for delivery at the 3 proposed sites. Following submission of the business case for a Development Corporation in March and receipt of positive feedback, recruitment was under way for a staffing structure for EM Dev Co Ltd. A timetable for plans was being drawn up to be put before the Alchemy Board (oversight board) within weeks, Progress

thereafter would depend on progress to legislate for a Development Corporation.

The Chair thanked AM for the comprehensive update.

Board **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the report.

2.6 Midlands Engine Overview and Update

AM took Board through a short presentation on the work of Midlands Engine, a partnership of local authorities, LEPs, universities and business representatives led by Sir John Peace with a remit to deliver pan-regional priorities for the Midlands.

He highlighted their focus on a range of initiatives including green growth, digitalisation, ME Observatory, transport, and inward investment. Attention was drawn to resources available from the work of the Observatory, such as deep dive reports and economic impact monitoring reports.

The Chair thanked AM for the summary presentation.

Cllr Mellen expressed some concern over duplication of effort, which he had observed from working on LEP Board, Dev Co Board and Midlands Engine Board. He felt that Midlands Engine did not always represent the opportunities within the East Midlands relative to that of the West Midlands.

AM confirmed that one of the reasons for introducing a standing report to this committee was to keep everyone informed and to avoid duplication. On the issue of making the case strongly for the East Midlands, he undertook to raise this at an imminent meeting with Minister Pincher.

Board **NOTED** the report.

3 Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 7 July, 2021.