

Key Decision/Action Points from Board

D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, 23 November, 2021

By Teams Dial-In

Chair Elizabeth Fagan CBE

Minutes Sally Hallam

Present and Apologies

D2N2 Board Members in Attendance

Cllr Kevin Buttery	Leader, Amber Valley BC
Graham Cartledge	Business Representative
Andrew Cropley	F E Representative
Tim Freeman	Business Representative
Clare James	Business Representative
Cllr Chris Poulter	Leader, Derby City Council
Becky Rix	Business Representative
Viv Russell	Business Representative
Cllr Simon Robinson	Rushcliffe Borough Council, N2 representative
Liz Wigley	BEIS Area Lead Derbys and Notts
Katherine Cousins	BEIS

Also in attendance

David Fletcher	Director at Derby City Council
Nicki Jenkins	Director at Nottingham City Council
Simon Gladwin	Director at Amber Valley Borough Council
Joe Battye	Executive Director, Derbyshire County Council
Peter Handford	Director of Finance, Derbyshire County Council
Eddie Robinson	Finance Officer, Derbyshire County Council

Officer Support

Will Morlidge	Interim Chief Executive, D2N2
Tom Goshawk	Interim Head of Place, D2N2
Michelle Reynolds	Operations Manager, D2N2
Rob Harding	Head of Marketing and Communications, D2N2

Apologies

Apologies were received from Board members David Williams, Prof Shearer West and Cllrs Mellen, Lewis and Girling.

1.1 Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth Fagan welcomed all to the 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.

Cllr Buttery declared an interest in item 2.2 accounts due to a family connection with HSKS Greenhalgh and took no part in this item.

1.3 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 September, 2021 were confirmed as a true record and actions were confirmed as having been completed.

2. Strategic Discussion

2.1 D2N2 as a going concern in 2022/23

Will Morlidge introduced this item, prefaced with thanks to auditor, Philip Handley for his work.

WM reminded Members of the requirement for all companies limited by guarantee to demonstrate that they were a going concern before signing off accounts. He drew attention to the report figures showing net reserves at the end of 2022/23 of approximately £31.769m. This was broken down as core funding £0.853m, general reserve £0.595m, other reserves £24,452m and retained earnings £5.869m.

Board **CONFIRMED** for the purposes of its accounts that D2N2 LEP meets the requirements of a going concern in 2022/23.

2.2 Submission of 2020/21 Accounts for Board approval

The Chair invited Eddie Robinson from Derbyshire County Council to introduce himself to the group before passing to Philip Handley, Director of Audit and Associated Services.

Mr Handley talked Board through a summary of the papers, reminding them of reporting requirements and highlighting minor adjustments on the accounts that had been issued to the Board and which were now presented for approval.

Elizabeth Fagan thanked PH for the summary and also thanked WM for working with the Accountable Body and Auditors in preparation of the draft accounts. Member-Directors were asked to consider and raise any comments prior to a vote on approving.

Board **APPROVED** the financial accounts and other documentation required by the auditors. The process would be completed with presentation of the accounts to the AGM on 24 November, 2021.

2.3 Chair's Report

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

- Hydrogen Taskforce;
- Advisory Boards: summary feedback;
- LEP review update;
- Partner engagement

and drew Members' attention to the detailed notes under each item.

EF thanked Derby City Council for its work as a catalyst for the use of new technologies. She invited Becky Rix/WM to add any further comments on the Hydrogen Taskforce.

WM thanked Tom Goshawk for picking up operational work on this. The first meeting had taken place with D2N2 in the chair. Work was under way by Cadent, who were working to install a proposed hydrogen pipeline from the North Sea to serve areas including the East Midlands and East Anglia. D2N2 was working with the company to identify and contact the top 50 users of gas and invite them to signal interest in adopting hydrogen, to de-risk the proposed investment.

A representative from Cadent would be invited to update a future Board on developments.

On the LEP review, Government had now confirmed payment of £500k core funding to March, 2022.

A decision on the future of LEPs was still awaited as part of the Levelling Up White Paper, publication for which was expected now before the end of the calendar year. EF confirmed that she represented the East Midlands on the LEP Network Board and a meeting was to take place in the near future with the Secretary of State to explain in greater detail the work that LEPs currently do. A paper on the impact and benefits to the D2N2 area would be shared when available.

EF made reference to headline points from the publication of the Integrated Rail Plan, with its implications for economic activity for this region. The Chair confirmed that she had attended a meeting of the HS2 Executive Board, which was chaired by Ben Bradley. Slides from that meeting would be circulated to the group.

A short general discussion took place. All agreed that connectivity across the area was an important driver of economic regeneration. Reference had been made within the Plan to connectivity between Toton and the airport/East Midlands Parkway, but with no specifics. Electrification of the Midland Main Line was again confirmed and would require all bodies across the region to work together to ensure delivery of this significant structural project.

Clare James on behalf of East Midlands Airport acknowledged the announcement as both an opportunity and a threat, with potential shorter journey times to Birmingham.

The Chair indicated that D2N2 would work further with EMA and regional businesses to better understand and support EMA to continue to be successful for the region.

EF again reiterated the importance of the continuing good engagement with MPs from both sides of the House, acknowledging their influence in wins to date with.

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

Board **AGREED** that infrastructure to enable low carbon travel to and from the Airport should be the subject of a future discussion.

ACTION: Invite Cadent representative to future Board (WM)

ACTION: circulate HS2 presentation (SH)

2.4 Interim Chief Executive's Report

Will Morlidge presented his report updating Board on items including:

- Advisory Boards update;
- Inclusion update;
- Marketing and Communications update;
- ESF update;
- Analytical update;
- Mental health update

and referred Members to the detailed notes under each item.

Under the People and Skills update, WM drew attention to the requirement by DfE for a refresh of the Skills Report, focusing attention on 5 shortage areas, namely adult social care, digital and technology, construction, haulage and logistics and manufacturing.

Andrew Cropley noted that there had been a significant reduction in numbers of young people joining lower-level apprenticeship courses post-covid, with West Nottinghamshire College currently showing more than 100 vacant places. He underlined the importance of educating young people about the benefits of developing higher level skills to take them through their working lives.

ACTION: AC and WM to liaise on details/ WM to commission a landscape map of the current position on apprenticeships.

Under ESF, WM reported that a £2m allocation for and apprenticeship and jobs hub had been reclaimed by DWP due to no bids having been received in response to that call.

WM paid tribute to work by D2N2 data analysts, Vlad Eperi and Dave Tuer and drew Board's attention to the new funding tracker tool which highlighted investment funds available within the region and which had been developed by the D2N2 team.

On mental health, WM advised Members that all managers would have completed training in mental health first aid by Christmas, 2021 in order to support the whole workforce at this difficult time in the LEP's history.

Board **NOTED** the report.

2.5 GPF Review Report (exempt item)

Board considered a confidential report on next steps to address remaining GPF underspend.

Board **AGREED** to set up two repurposed funds, details for which would be considered for approval at Investment Board, as follows:

- D2N2 Low Carbon Growth Fund - £6.5m of capital grants, match funded and capped at £1.5m per project: to support innovative approaches to growth that support the move to net zero
- D2N2 Early Stage Angel Investment Fund - £4m of revenue funding to be recycled through support for SME growth through loans and equity investment.

2.6 Freeport Update

Cllr Robinson advised Members that the final submission date for the Freeport final business case had been put back to January, 2022.

A new Chair was to be recruited for the Board.

Clare James noted that an announcement regarding tax site designation was expected imminently.

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

3.AOB

Under levelling up, David Fletcher reported that Derby City Council was looking to bid for the Great British Railways Head Office to be located in the city.

The Chair and D2N2 had already sent a letter of support.

ACTION: D2N2 to pick up with David Fletcher following the meeting.

Rob Harding reminded all of the details for the AGM on 24 November, 2021.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 26 January, 2022.