

Key Decision/Action Points from Board

D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, 26 January 2022

By Teams Dial-In

Chair David Williams

Minutes Sally Hallam

Present and Apologies

D2N2 Board Members in Attendance

Cllr Kevin BATTERY	Leader, Amber Valley BC, D2 representative
Graham Cartledge	Business Representative
Andrew Cropley	FE Representative
Tim Freeman	Business Representative
Cllr Mike Introna	Representative for Nottinghamshire County Council
Clare James	Business Representative
Cllr Barry Lewis	Leader, Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Chris Poulter	Leader, Derby City Council
Cllr Simon Robinson	Rushcliffe Borough Council, N2 representative
Prof Shearer West	HE Representative
Liz Wigley	BEIS Area Lead Derbys and Notts

Also, in attendance

Susan Caldwell	D2N2 Senior Whitehall Sponsor, DIT
Simon Gladwin	Director, Amber Valley Borough Council
Kath Marriott	CEO, Rushcliffe Borough Council
Matt Neal	Service Director Investment and Growth Notts CC
Nicki Jenkins	Director Economic Development Nottm City Council
Eddie Robinson	Finance Officer, Derbyshire County Council
Chris Henning	Exec Director Place, Derbyshire County Council

D2N2 Officer Support

Will Morlidge	Interim CEO
Tom Goshawk	Interim Head of Place
Michelle Reynolds	Operations Manager
Rob Harding	Head of Marketing and Communications
Frank Horsley	Head of Business and Innovation

Apologies

Apologies were received from Board members Elizabeth Fagan, Becky Rix and Viv Russell and Cllr David Mellen. Supporting officer apologies included Emma Alexander and David Fletcher.

1.1 Welcome and Introductions

David Williams welcomed all to the meeting, extending a particular welcome to new Member, Cllr Mike Introna from Nottinghamshire County Council.

1.2 Declarations of interest

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

David Williams declared an interest in item 2.2 Interim CEO's report where reference was made under the Business and Innovation section to progress on revenue support for businesses. He took no part in this item.

1.3 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 November 2021 was confirmed as a true record. Actions were confirmed as having been completed, except for the ongoing mapping of apprenticeships work which would be referred to further in this meeting.

2. Strategic Discussion

2.1 D2N2 Chair's Report

David Williams introduced the Chair's report updating members on significant developments since the last meeting, including:

- Levelling Up White Paper latest.
- Advisory Boards: summary feedback.
- LEP review update.
- Partner engagement

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

On Levelling Up/LEP review, DW reminded Board that the Government White Paper on Levelling Up was still awaited, with publication now said to be due in early February 2022. This would give a better steer on the future direction of the LEP, although it was anticipated that the White Paper itself would not contain the level of detail that the Board would need to fully understand the Government's plans for LEPs. DW expressed again

his admiration for the LEP executive team for their continued commitment to service delivery at this time of continued uncertainty. He reiterated that sufficient operational funding was in place for the meantime, although particularly careful use of funds was necessary.

Members were referred to the detailed notes under each of the Advisory Boards.

Viv Russell had agreed to stay on as a Board member and would remain Chair of the Business Growth and Innovation Advisory Board. The existing subgroup on minerals would be picking up a new workstream on skills. This will seek to assess whether the sector is working closely enough with the education and skills sector to secure its future talent pipeline, and to recommend actions if required.

Under People and Skills Advisory Board, Prof West noted that there was now a dashboard to track progress and work was going well, with most items showing as green or at least amber.

Although the Place Advisory Board had not met since the last main Board meeting, workstreams were continuing via its sub-groups. The Hydrogen group was particularly active, with the work to bring landowners and potential investors together being particularly interesting.

Will Morlidge updated Members on a couple of projects, one around hydrogen twinning, where cities were paired up for a minimum 5-year knowledge exchange and another, HyDex, for knowledge-sharing between university institutions. Longer term, it was hoped that the two projects could be pooled together into a strategic knowledge-sharing programme for the region.

Reference was also made to ongoing talks with Cadent about using existing and new pipelines to bring hydrogen into the region and to take carbon-dioxide out. Further detail on these projects would be provided to a future Board.

Board was advised by Tom Goshawk that the £6.5m low carbon fund would be over-subscribed, with interest coming from both public and private sector. The closing date for applications was 28 January 2022. Proposals would be assessed by a team of internal and external assessors before going to Investment Board for consideration. The decisions made by Investment Board would then be ratified by this Board in the usual way.

David Williams expressed support for a reserve pipeline of projects in expectation of further funding becoming available to support low carbon initiatives.

2.2 Interim Chief Executive's Report

Will Morlidge presented his report updating Board on items including:

- Advisory Boards update.

- Inclusion update.
- Marketing and Communications update.
- Finance 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 6-monthly refresh of the Skills Report. He noted that for the first time, DfE was asking specifically about digital skills and the care sector. He reported he had attended an initial scoping meeting with Prof Kath Mitchell of the University of Derby and senior NHS representatives, leading to a proposal to bring together an East Midlands-wide group of people from the NHS, HE/FE and local authorities to investigate best practice in delivering the skilled workforce that the health system needs.

On digital skills work, the new focus was moving beyond basic skills to consider more sophisticated data and analytics and machine skills. A meeting was due to take place shortly between data analysts and Experian to explore the possibility of utilising some of their data sites.

The launch of the South Derbyshire Careers Hub had been well received and all Hubs were now fully staffed and operational. The LEP had moved on some way since the start of the Enterprise Adviser Network in 2015, focusing now on Gatsby Benchmark 1: ensuring that schools and colleges have robust and evidence-based strategies that underpin their careers work. The LEP remained committed to its existing work to ensure all young people received meaningful encounters with the world of work.

On Skills bootcamps, the DfE had been pleased with initial outcomes and had encouraged D2N2 to apply for an extension to wave 2. An application to wave 3, in partnership with Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, working closely with the Manufacturing Advisory Panel to support its work on digital manufacturing was also proposed. LEP work on the first two waves of bootcamps would be subject to an Ofsted inspection and Will Morlidge thanked Andrew Cropley for his offer of support in helping to prepare for Ofsted.

On Business and Innovation, the Manufacturing Advisory Panel had been well received and was driving a more co-ordinated approach. It was hoped that it may open doors to funding from Government that have tended to be awarded Combined Authority areas.

The LEP's Key Account Management investment programme had been very successful, with projects valued at around £15m landed. The Investor Development Co-ordinator post was being extended for 6 months at risk, because confidence of securing further DIT funding on the back of success to date was high.

Members' attention was drawn to the forthcoming DIT National Investment Atlas, an online portal where 40 projects across the Midlands would be showcased. The LEP

was working with DIT and other partners to ensure that all potential investment projects were linked to the system.

Board noted a successful year for Comms and Marketing, with the rollout of the Funding Tracker one of the most impactful pages of the website. The tracker was attracting national interest via other LEPs.

WM reported that Operations Manager, Michelle Reynolds would be moving on shortly and recorded thanks to her for her significant contribution to the LEP.

On Finance, WM reiterated the position as detailed in LEP Annual Accounts, that the LEP remained an ongoing entity. Any future decision making would be dependent on the outcome of the Government review.

Board **NOTED** the report.

2.3 Freeport Update

Cllr Robinson gave Members a short verbal update on Freeport developments.

The Freeport final business case was now due for completion by early mid-March 2022. Work was ongoing to formalise the relationship of Freeport with the Development Corporation. DevCo now had a new Chair, Sir Chris Haworth.

Land in NW Leicestershire for a customs site had been extended as a requirement for the application to Government. Uniper had agreed with the UKAEA to withdraw Ratcliffe-on-Soar from the STEP programme due to land requirement issues. This meant that EDF's West Burton site was back in the running, having been first reserve. Cllr Introna made it clear that local partners would be giving this bid every bit as much support as had previously gone to Ratcliffe.

As it progressed towards the delivery phase, the Freeport board would formalise its arrangements for chairing the committee in February 2022.

A short general conversation took place around the table before Board **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the report with thanks.

3. AOB

Members' Declaration of Interest forms needed to be renewed. Forms would be circulated to all shortly with a request to update, sign and return.

ACTION: Circulate forms (SH)

Andrew Copley requested an update on the various Towns Fund projects.

ACTION: WM to bring report to March Board.

4. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 23 March, 2022.