

Key Decision/Action Points from Board

D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, 22 June, 2022

Geldards, One Pride Place, Derby DE24 8QR
(with hybrid Teams dial-in)

Chair Elizabeth Fagan

Minutes Sally Hallam

Present and Apologies

D2N2 Board Members in Attendance

Graham Cartledge	Business Representative
Andrew Cropley	F E Representative
Cllr Keith Girling	Representative for Nottinghamshire County Council
Scott Knowles	Business Representative
Cllr Chris Poulter	Leader, Derby City Council
Cllr David Mellen	Leader, Nottingham City Council
Cllr Simon Robinson	Rushcliffe Borough Council, N2 representative
Viv Russell	Business Representative
Liz Wigley	BEIS Area Lead Derbys and Notts
David Williams	Business Representative/Dep Chair

Also in attendance

Kath Marriott	CEO, Rushcliffe Borough Council
Peter Davies-Bright	Economic Programmes Manager Nottm City Council
Owen Harvey	N2 Skills & Employment Partnership Manager NCC
Emma Alexander	MD, Derbyshire County Council
Joe Battye	Director, Economy and Regeneration, Derbys CC

Officer Support

Frank Horsley	Head of Business and Innovation, D2N2
Fiona Baker	Head of People and Skills, D2N2
Eddie Robinson	Finance Officer, Derbyshire County Council
Hannah Barrett	Programme Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council

Apologies

Apologies were received from Board members James Brand, Clare James, Becky Rix, Tim Freeman and Cllrs Barry Lewis and Kevin Buttery.

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.

Scott Knowles declared an interest in Local Skills Improvement Plans under item 2.4 and took no part in this discussion.

1.3 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March, 2022 were confirmed as a true record.

Under matters arising, Andrew Cropley reported that, following objections recorded at the last meeting to approval of the Heat Pump Training scheme, a successful meeting had been brokered by D2N2 between West Nottinghamshire College and Bolsover DC/Chesterfield College. A revised, more strategic view of FE in the whole of the area was now being developed and work would continue with WNC/Bolsover/Chesterfield going forward.

2. Strategic Discussion

2.1 D2N2 Chair's Report

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

- Changes to the Board;
- Strategic update;
- Partner Engagement

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

On Board changes, EF reminded members that the search had been extended for new Board members and asked again that anyone with potential candidates sound out these colleagues and encourage them to apply if appropriate.

Board governance rules had been reviewed in light of the stepping down of David Williams at the end of his original term extension. It had been verified that Board tenure for all members had begun again from the point at which the LEP commenced as a limited company. As a result, David Williams would be continuing to serve as a Board member for a further term. This decision was supported by Board members.

Under strategic updates, the Chair invited Frank Horsley to update members briefly on the Growth Hub.

FH confirmed that, whereas LEPs had now received confirmation of BEIS core funding for the current year, the allocation was 50% of the 2022/22 budget. There was no indication to date as to further BEIS funding for 2022/23 and EU funding concluded in June, 2023. Although a nationally recognised and comprehensive business support structure had been developed in D2N2, there was therefore a real risk of a funding gap prior to transition to a Combined Authority. Plans to finalise development of a service offer with UK SPF to support Growth Hub funding were being finalised this week, in order to maintain crucial continuity of service into transition. GH manager, Chris Pook was writing to all districts to advise their allocation, based on business rates.

Under business engagement, the next Leaders Board would take place on 20 July, 2022.

Board **NOTED** the report.

2.2 Devolution: discussion on LEP integration

The Chair welcomed Hannah Barrett on behalf of Anthony May from Nottinghamshire County Council. She spoke briefly to a couple of slides covering the negotiating timetable for devolution and next steps.

Board was advised that work was under way via fortnightly senior officer working group meetings. Membership of the group comprised upper tier authority officers, together with two officers representing Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire districts respectively and Will Morlidge of the LEP, who would collectively undertake negotiations with Government. Themed sessions were being run throughout the summer with a deal to be concluded by autumn, 2022. The proposed deal would go out for public consultation over the winter and, subject to passing all stages satisfactorily, a mayoral Combined Authority would be in place by May, 2024.

Although work was being led by the 4 upper tier authorities, all districts and boroughs were being engaged and input was being sought to shape negotiations. Regular monthly meetings were being established for the Chief Executive Officers and the D2N2 Leaders Board was to meet again on 20 July. Collaboration with wider partners

such as the Chamber of Commerce and the universities was also being actively considered.

EF thanked HB and invited comments from the floor.

Cllr Mellen welcomed the positive progress on devolution and recorded thanks to the LEP for being so co-operative in assisting the process. He reiterated the importance of including the boroughs and districts, noting that the process was about catching up and getting a fair share for the whole area which had previously lagged behind other regions.

Cllr Poulter echoed this: the drive for devolution was not about centralising powers but rather about levelling up. Success would make D2N2 one of the country's largest CAs.

Cllr Robinson underlined the need for good communication in presenting the proposed deal to local residents who may be sceptical about increased bureaucracy. He also noted the need to ensure correct representation for all within the governance structure of a new CA.

Scott Knowles spoke for the business community, stressing the need for them also to be fully engaged with the process to avoid the feeling of a deal being done to them.

Board **NOTED** all discussion points.

2.3 Finance report – Budget Forecast

The Chair handed to Eddie Robinson of Derbyshire County Council, who introduced himself and spoke briefly to the paper. He drew attention to the reduced level of funding from Government and the reduced contributions from local authority partners. Pay costs assumed that the 4 current vacancies would all be filled, failing which there may be a surplus. Consultancy fees for the Skills Advisory Panel were being picked up from core budget.

The Chair referred to the historic contribution to Midlands Engine that was shown and indicated that a letter would be sent to ME to open discussions about future funding levels. It was noted that ME had already received notification from West Midlands LEPs that funding on a par with historic levels would no longer be possible.

Board **NOTED** the report.

2.4 Chief Executive's Report

In CEO Will Morlidge's absence, Frank Horsley and Fiona Baker introduced the CEO's report updating Board on items including:

- Work to support the Devolution Deal
- Local Skills Improvement Plans
- Skills Boot Camps
- Growth Hub
- Early Stage Angel Investment Fund

and referred Members to the detailed notes under each item.

Under Skills bootcamps, FB reminded Board that these were short courses of no more than 16 weeks that were designed to give individuals training to access a job or to move into a different job with their existing employer.

Waves 1 and 2 covered digital skills and marketing. Wave 1 had concluded with an 80% completion rate and 74% positive employment outcome. Wave 2 had received an extension and would run alongside the wave 3 contract that had been awarded for £3.3m and which would include low carbon, green skills and digital (cloud computing).

The Chair gave credit to FB and her team for this significant win for the region.

FH spoke to update Members on progress with the proposed Early Stage Angel Investment Fund to plug an identified gap in the market for businesses between 6 months and 2 years old that were looking for investment to grow their businesses and invest. Shakespeare Martineau had been contracted to develop the legal model and procurement required to engage a funding manager. It was envisaged that the scheme would launch at the D2N2 AGM at the end of the year.

Board **NOTED** the report.

3. Freeport Update

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

Nora Senior had been appointed as the new Chair and would start from July, 2022. Recruitment of executive positions into the delivery team would take place over the coming months. Full designation of the freeport was aimed for by August, 2022 and engagement with stakeholders including the LEP and Government departments would continue.

In response to a question from Cllr Poulter on if/how discussions were going around Freeport fitting in with the Development Corporation and a mayoral CA, Cllr Robinson indicated that there were no indications of current collaborative working with Dev Corp.

In response to a question from the Chair about identified interest from businesses wanting to access the freeport area, Cllr Robinson noted a slight gap at present until certainty could be established over what could be offered at specific sites.

Elizabeth Fagan also expressed a wish for an early meeting with the new Freeport Chair.

Board **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the verbal report with thanks.

ACTION: introductory meeting to be arranged between Nora Senior and Elizabeth Fagan (SH)

4. EM Development Corporation Briefing Note

The Chair drew Board's attention to the briefing paper from Nottinghamshire County Council that had been circulated for information with the papers.

Cllr Poulter, on behalf of himself and Cllr Mellen who had left the meeting, again raised the concern previously expressed that development should not take place to the detriment of local city areas in terms of bringing industries and sectors to the area and attracting inward investment.

The Chair offered to facilitate a meeting between Chairs and Leaders to start a dialogue on how Development Corporation/MCA/Freeport could work alongside one another.

ACTION: EF to pick up with Ben Bradley/Anthony May of Nottinghamshire County Council

ACTION: Cllr Robinson to pick up with Freeport Chair

ACTION: Cllr Poulter to pick up with upper tier Leaders

5. AOB

Andrew Cropley reported that the Levelling Up Taskforce had visited Mansfield and had been taken on a tour of the Towns Fund funded sites in Mansfield and Ashfield.

Liz Wigley confirmed that the visit had gone well and provided food for thought on local challenges.

Cllr Poulter reported that the anticipated shortlist for the Great British Railway bid had been delayed due to the current rail dispute. It was hoped that Derby would make the shortlist and a further report would be made to a future meeting.

6. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 28 September, 2022 (10am – 12 noon) – Derbyshire venue tbc.