

## D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership People and Skills Advisory Board

Date: Tuesday 24th January 2023, 10.00am-12.00pm  
 Venue: Teams Meeting

### MINUTES OF MEETING

<b>Attendees</b>	
Edward Peck	Nottingham Trent University
Liz Wigley	BEIS
Ian Bond	Inspire Culture
Mike Firth	ESFA
Martin Frost	South Derbyshire District Council
Sandra Cowley	Futures
Julie Beresford	Bassetlaw District Council
Nicola Caley	Murray Park School
Sonja Smith	Nottinghamshire County Council
Natalie Gasson-McKinley	Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
Fiona Baker	D2N2 LEP
Richard Kirkland	D2N2 LEP
Dave Tuer	D2N2 LEP
Lana Jay	D2N2 LEP
Laura Wilkins	D2N2 LEP
Sandra Casey (notes)	D2N2 LEP

<b>Actions from meeting</b>	
Follow up previous action points 49 and 50 – CCA Skills & Education Board membership / invite to future PSAB meeting / discuss the role of PSAB in transition period to Mayoral Combined County Authority	Will Morlidge / Fiona Baker
Update on action 45 - co-ordinate level 4/5 provision with FE principals with a view of future skills needs in manufacturing (possibly superseded by LSIP)	Lucie Andrews
Update the Apprenticeship Review with an analysis of reasons why learners do not complete their apprenticeship and circulate for approval	Fiona Baker

#### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Welcomes and introductions were made.

Apologies have been received from Chris Hobson (East Midlands Chamber), Mike Roylance (South Derbyshire District Council), Penny Halewood (Groundwork Greater Nottingham), Andrew Marsh (Derbyshire County Council), Owen Harvey (Nottingham City Council), Pauline Anderson (Derby City Council), Veronica Dennant (Newark & Sherwood District Council), Leigh Mackenzie (Derbyshire County Council), Sabina Talib (Derby City Council), Will Morlidge (D2N2 LEP), Liam Jackson (D2N2 LEP) and Lucie Andrews (D2N2 LEP).

#### 2. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest were declared.

### 3. Minutes of last meeting, matters arising and meetings action log

The minutes of the meeting held on [29 September 2022](#) were accepted as a true record. Link to the [meetings action log](#). An update on action 45 by Lucie Andrews will be made on her return to work.

### 4. Devolution update – Fiona Baker, D2N2 LEP

- the consultation on the proposed East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority has now closed and circa 5000 responses have been received
- if the consensus from the consultation is positive, formal acceptance to take forward the devolution deal will be given
- Joe Battye from Derbyshire County Council has been appointed the Chair of the CCA Skills and Education Board; action 49 regarding broad membership of the Board and action 50 CCA S&E Board attendance at future PSAB meeting to be followed up; discussion needed regarding the role of PSAB during this transition period

**ACTION: follow up previous action points 49 and 50 – CCA Skills & Education Board membership / invite to future PSAB meeting / discuss the role of PSAB in transition period to Mayoral Combined County Authority**

### 5. D2N2 Local Skills Improvement Plan update – Natalie Gasson-McKinley, Federation of Small Business

- the D2N2 LSIP will have a focus on soft skills, low carbon and digital skills
- online employer and training provider events have taken place, with 4 in-person events taking place week commencing 23/1/23 in Derby, Chesterfield, Mansfield and Nottingham
- there is also an opportunity to engage via an [online survey](#) (deadline for completion 6/2/23) and phone interview (contact Natalie to arrange an appointment via [natalie.gasson-mckinley@fsb.org.uk](mailto:natalie.gasson-mckinley@fsb.org.uk))
- business engagement across the full range from micro to large employers
- emerging themes from the online sessions are in work readiness, digitalisation, recruitment and delivery of provision
- consultation responses will inform a set of actionable priorities for training and education partners that can be written into their accountability plans; the accountability plans need to be submitted on the same day as the LSIP and FSB have raised this as an issue with DfE as the aim of the LSIP is to inform accountability plans
- the Gatsby Charitable Foundation has also been working with 8 Trailblazer areas and although the learning from the Trailblazers has not yet been released, best practice from the Trailblazer areas will inform future LSIPs
- HE partners form part of the LSIP steering group and can contribute to discussions on how the LSIP will inform HE provision
- more work is needed to educate employers about employment strategies; skilled people are out there but employers says they are unable to attract talent
- once consultation responses have been analysed, report headlines will be shared with education partners prior to the LSIP being published

## 6. **Apprenticeship Review – feedback and discussion** – Fiona Baker

See Fiona's [presentation, Board report and draft Apprenticeship Review](#)

- an apprenticeship strategy was one of the objectives from the D2N2 Local Skills Report which has now been superseded by the LSIP and the advent of the Mayoral Combined County Authority; work had already started on the strategy and it was agreed to provide a short review to contribute to the LSIP consultation
- there was a discussion about completion rates and it was agreed that more information was needed to better understand why learners drop out
- Edward will share the apprenticeship review findings with Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education, Robert Halfon
- it was agreed to endorse the Apprenticeship Review, subject to more analysis on reasons for learner drop-out

**ACTION: Fiona to update the Apprenticeship Review with an analysis of reasons why learners do not complete their apprenticeship and circulate for approval**

## 7. **Employability Consultation submission from Employment Sub-Group** – Richard Kirkland

See Richard's [report and draft employment support consultation](#)

- the People & Skills Employment sub group held a single agenda item meeting to frame a D2N2 response to the Institute for Employment Studies consultation: [Commission on the Future of Employment Support](#); deadline for submission 30/1/23
- the Employment sub group identified three key areas where improvements could be made – employment programme eligibility, supporting employers to adapt recruitment practices to encourage greater diversity of applicants and greater alignment between the range of government employment programmes
- employment support programmes need to be flexible and continually refreshed to meet future needs and changes to the employability landscape; making use of local data to adapt services as demand changes
- it was agreed to endorse the consultation response

## 8. **People & Skills Update** – Fiona Baker, D2N2 LEP

See Fiona's [report](#)

- the D2N2 Connected Futures Partnership Board will meet on 25th January, when it will be presented with early data from the primary research phase of the project
- schools connected with the D2N2 Careers Hub continue to see an improvement in their Gatsby Benchmark percentages
- D2N2 is one of just three areas in the country to pilot a new careers initiative focusing on primary schools - '[Start Small – Dream Big](#)'; a request was made from members to ensure involvement in the programme from schools in areas of greatest deprivation
- European Structural Investment Fund programmes end this year, leading to the closure of many employment and skills programmes and the loss of key members of staff; funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is significantly

less than ESIF and there will be a delay in the commissioning of new programmes

- the Department for Education have approved the D2N2 Wave 4 Skills Bootcamp programme for 2023-24

**9. Any Other Business**

None

**10. Next Steps**

- share the Local Skills Improvement Plan at the April meeting
- revised Apprenticeship Review to be circulated for approval

**11. Dates of 2022 meetings**

Meetings will continue to take place via Teams.

Tuesday 18th April 13.00-15.00

Tuesday 18th July 10.00-12.00

Wednesday 18th October 10.00-12.00