

D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership Business Growth & Innovation Advisory Board

Date: February 2nd 2023, 10.00 – 12.00

Venue: Teams

NOTES OF MEETING

Attendees

Alex Ford	CT Skills
Ben Sumner	University of Nottingham
Chris Barrow	Toyota Manufacturing UK
Chris Pook	D2N2 Growth Hub
Darren Clarke	Medilink UK
Dave Bee	Uniper
Diane Beresford	East Midlands Chamber
Dominic Stevens	Destination Chesterfield
Keith Cox	Bloc Digital
Lewis Stringer	British Business Bank
Mike Epton	CMBD
Lorraine Baggs	Marketing NG
Nicola Swaney	Rolls-Royce
David Harper	Nottingham Trent University
Julian Bowrey	Innovate UK
Julian Stone	Inception Associates
Caroline Saxton	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Robert Dixon	Nottingham County Council
Rachel Hayward	Ask the Chameleon
Warren Manning	University of Derby
Will Morlidge (Chair)	D2N2 LEP
Fiona Baker	D2N2 LEP
Maureen Vieyra	D2N2 LEP
Richard Kirkland	D2N2 LEP
Lucie Andrews	D2N2 LEP
Lisa Brewer	D2N2 LEP
Sandra Casey (notes)	D2N2 LEP

Apologies were received from Viv Russell (Mineral Products Qualification Council), Catherine Evans (Rushcliffe Borough Council), Emma Knight Strong (Green Arch Consulting), Jeremy Hague (Nottingham Trent University), Geoff George (Mansfield District Council), Natalie Gasson-McKinley (FSB) and Liz Wigley (BEIS).

ACTION	LEAD
Provide a written update on the Made Smarter East Midlands programme	Lucie Andrews

Recommendation to be made that HE representatives are invited to join all EMMCCA working groups	Will Morlidge
Agenda item – discussion on BGIAB recommendations to the East Midlands Mayoral County Combined County Authority	ALL / Will Morlidge / SC

1. **Introductions and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

No new conflicts of interest were declared.

2. **Notes from the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

The notes from the December meeting were accepted as a true record. There is an action outstanding for Will to provide an update on oil/gas company investment in D2N2 area at future meeting.

3. **Skills Bootcamp programme – Richard Kirkland**

- Skills Bootcamps are short, max 16 week L3-L5 courses, designed to meet employer demand in digital and green skills; L2 can be delivered for green skills if demand
- Dept for Education have approved our wave 4 Skills Bootcamp proposal for financial year 2023-24
- discussions are taking place to expand the Skills Bootcamp offer to Health & Social Care and Manufacturing

4. **Made Smarter update – Lucie Andrews**

- [Made Smarter East Midlands](#) is a £3m programme, aimed at increasing productivity through adoption of digital technology
- there are a number of Made Smarter initiatives in the area and colleagues will work together to ensure a joined up offer, for example the University of Nottingham's [Research Centre for Connected Factories](#)
- Greater Lincolnshire LEP is the accountable body and the programme is currently open to SMEs in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire
- micro businesses are not eligible and there is no alternative support available to them
- negotiations are underway to offer the programme to Northamptonshire SMEs
- East Midlands Chamber is also a delivery partner and will be providing expert digital advice through their current [Digital Upscaler](#) digital advisor team
- Lucie is meeting Chris Owen, MSEM programme manager, this week and will provide a written update on the programme

ACTION: Lucie to provide a written update on the Made Smarter East Midlands programme

5. **Smart Manufacturing Data Hub update – Lisa Brewer**

See also Lisa's [presentation](#)

- businesses are now uploading their data to the Manufacturing Data Exchange platform where it is analysed, with results used to benchmark against other businesses and to provide information for business improvements
- the more businesses that engage, the more useful the data will be
- there is a lot of interest in the Virtual Manufacturing Platform, where a business can test processes virtually prior to investment
- event taking place 7/2/23 [Understanding Energy Use in Manufacturing](#), run in partnership with the Energy Systems Catapult
- discussions are taking place with FE partners regarding work placements with businesses involved with the project; this could be extended to schools and HE; potential to link to Chesterfield’s property and construction group to pilot a new initiative in schools which offers hands on activity and work experience within all the businesses that take part

6. Devolution update - Will Morlidge

- circa 5000 responses were received during the East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority consultation which ended in January; if the consensus supports devolution, government will approve the deal
- the MCCA will be in place by April 2024 and a mayor in place by May 2024
- working groups have been set up to make recommendations for an incoming mayor – Transport, Housing, Skills, Net Zero and Business & Investment; Joelle Davies from Nottinghamshire County Council leads on Skills and Fiona Baker represents D2N2; Joe Battye from Derbyshire County Council leads on Business & Investment and Will represents D2N2; Will also attends the Net Zero group with Wayne Bexton, low carbon lead at Nottingham City Council; Will to recommend that HE representatives are invited to join all working groups
- a discussion took place about how colleagues could influence future policy and continuation funding so that services/staff remain in place prior to the MMCA being set up; BGIAB members were encouraged to lobby both government and district councils with recommendations; the May BGIAB meeting will have a focus on shaping priorities to recommend to the new MMCA – inward investment, business support services and innovation were identified as key priorities

Diagram below shows loss of ERDF funding in D2N2:



ACTIONS:

- Will to recommend HE representatives are invited to join all EMMCCA working groups
- agenda item 3/5/23 to focus on shaping EMMCCA priorities

7. Business Growth & Innovation updates – Will Morlidge

- Early Stage Angel Investment Fund – is expected to be launched in the summer and is currently out to tender for a funding manager, providing match for the £4m fund; market testing is underway for a preferred funding model
- Key Account Management programme – the service supports foreign direct investment and significantly overachieves targets
- [DCMS Create Growth Fund competition](#) – funding for creative sector micro and SMEs for up to £30k for innovation projects to grow their business (deadline 8/2/23)
- [Creative Catalyst 2023](#) – funding for creative sector micro and SMEs for up to £50k to support business by providing a package of targeted and continuous support to help businesses to grow (deadline 15/2/23)
- [UKREiIF - The UK's Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum](#) – D2N2 will be attending, in partnership with the inward investment agencies (May 16th-18th)

8. D2N2 Growth Hub update – Chris Pook

See also Chris's [report](#)

- business engagement is up on the last quarter, with around 115 enquiries per week
- event programme has been launched, running from January to June
- ERDF outputs are on track, with the expectation that the 12hr assist target will be achieved by the end of the programme (June 2023)
- the £3m Business Investment Fund is now fully committed, with a waiting list in case of any underspend; 222 SMEs have received grants for productivity improvements
- the end of programme Summative Assessment is taking place, providing a formal report to government on the impact of the Growth Hub programme; report will be published in April
- no confirmation has been received to date regarding BEIS core funding for the Growth Hub; an announcement is expected in March for the financial year 2023-24; there is potential for a fragmented business support service under UK Shared Prosperity Fund, allocated at district council level; Nottinghamshire/Nottingham districts are about to announce some joint commissioning through UKSPF but Derbyshire/Derby districts are still in discussions

9. Any other business

Nicola Swaney has been appointed Head of External Affairs at D2N2; she starts at the end of March and can be contacted via nicola.swaney@d2n2lep.org

Meeting dates 2023 (all 10.00-12.00)

February 2nd

May 3rd

August 22nd

November 9th