

## D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership Business Growth & Innovation Advisory Board

**Date:** May 3rd 2023, 10.00 – 12.00

**Venue:** Teams

### NOTES OF MEETING

#### Attendees

Alex Ford	CT Skills
Ben Sumner	University of Nottingham
Catherine Evans	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Emma Knight Strong	Green Arch Consulting
Melanie Davidson	Medilink UK
Dave Bee	Uniper
Paul Humphreys	East Midlands Chamber
Ian Cuddington	Rolls Royce
Jeremy Hague	Nottingham Trent University
Keith Cox	Bloc Digital
Lewis Stringer	British Business Bank
Nicola Swaney	Rolls-Royce
Jo Dilley	Marketing Derby
John Collins	Professional Coaching Alliance Ltd
Julian Bowrey	Innovate UK
Natalie Gasson-McKinley	FSB
Robert Dixon	Nottingham County Council
Rachel Hayward	Ask the Chameleon
Warren Manning	University of Derby
Katrina Crookdake	Dept for Business and Trade
Will Morlidge (Chair)	D2N2 LEP
Tom Goshawk	D2N2 LEP
Maureen Vieyra	D2N2 LEP
Nicola Swaney	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), Chris Barrow (Toyota Manufacturing UK), Chris Pook (D2N2 Growth Hub), Diane Beresford (East Midlands Chamber), Dominic Stevens (Destination Chesterfield), David Harper (NTU), Geoff George (Mansfield District Council), Huw Bowen (Chesterfield Borough Council), Joelle Davies (Notts County Council), John Forkin (Marketing Derby), Julian Stone (Inception Associates), Lorraine Baggs (Marketing NG), Mike Epton (CMBD), Steven Jackson (Marketing NG), Tim Freeman (Toyota) and Richard Blackmore (CBI)

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
Update on the Skills Bootcamp programme to be a regular agenda item	Richard Kirkland / TG / SC

Promote the Made Smarter East Midlands programme via own networks <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/made-smarter-east-midlands/">https://www.linkedin.com/company/made-smarter-east-midlands/</a>	ALL
Invite Dept for Business and Trade to present update on their re-instated international trade peer network	Will Morlidge / SC
Develop Careers Hub joint marketing campaign with partners	Nicola Swaney
Invite Nichola Bruno, Head of the King's Award for Enterprise, to attend August meeting to encourage D2N2 businesses to apply	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 February 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
- Richard is currently in discussions to expand the range of Skills Bootcamp courses on offer, for example developing a welding course to meet shortage of highly skilled welders and a woodland management course
- group members were asked to identify other potential Skills Bootcamp courses and suggestions included green flood risk management, EV supply chain and net zero/hydrogen; suggestion also of green skills training around procurement, finance and HR - helping people who make the day to day purchasing and hiring decisions to think about net zero during the process
- consistency of the Skills Bootcamp model may enable smaller, niche providers to develop more targeted courses
- the Local Skills Improvement Plan consultation highlights that employers find the local skills offer difficult to understand and one recommendation from the LSIP is to put together sector-specific skills information
- the Local Skills Improvement Plan Fund will be launched this year, with DfE expecting one collaborative application per area, addressing the recommendations from the LSIP

**ACTION:** update on the Skills Bootcamp programme to be a regular agenda item

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

- see Lucie's [presentation](#)
- [Made Smarter East Midlands](#) is a £3m programme, aimed at increasing productivity through adoption of digital technology
- the programme includes an analysis of the business, a 'road map' of what it wants to achieve, grants to help achieve goals, intense digital support and leadership & management training
- leadership and management training will be delivered by Loughborough University – 8 training sessions and will include a visit to the Manufacturing Technology Centre in Coventry
- to date there have been 87 engagements and 12 grants approved to a value of £0.6m
- although this is a pan-LEP project (D2N2, Greater Lincolnshire, Leic/shire), a significant number of businesses involved are from D2N2

**ACTION: ALL asked to promote the Made Smarter East Midlands programme via own networks <https://www.linkedin.com/company/made-smarter-east-midlands/>**

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

- SMEs supported through [SMDH](#) will use data analysis to make their business decisions, for example identifying return on investment or reducing energy costs
- they will have access to a virtual manufacturing platform to access software and facilities to manufacture virtually prior to implementation in business
- 10 SMEs in D2N2 are currently signed up on the programme and another 6 are in the initial scoping phase
- there is an online community space for businesses to share and learn, plus a local low-cost solution directory will be developed; Will mentioned that Dept for Business and Trade colleagues were bringing back their international trade peer network and suggested this as a future agenda item
- [Understanding energy use in manufacturing](#) workshop takes place 13/6/23 and SMDH will be attending the [Manufacturing and Engineering Festival](#) at the NEC 7-8 June

**ACTION: invite Dept for Business and Trade to present update on their re-instated international trade peer network**

#### 6. Devolution update - Will Morlidge

- the East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority consultation demonstrated public support for devolution, which should see the MCCA potentially in place by April 2024 and a mayor by May 2024
- the devolution deal will see a minimum of £38m funding per year locally allocated, plus the opportunity to seek additional funding
- local authority colleagues are working on the new structure and strategy/policy with 5 key themes – business/innovation, net zero, skills/education, housing and transport
- Joelle Davies, Nottinghamshire County Council, leads on the business/innovation theme group, of which Will is a member; Will is working with local authority

colleagues to embed the voice of business and innovation into the new structure/policy

- Innovate UK are keen to agree a local innovation plan with the new Mayor

## 7. **Business Growth & Innovation updates** – Tom Goshawk

- the **UK's Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF)** – D2N2 will be leading an investment panel discussion on May 17th; link to book your place [Shaping Devolution – a £1bn East Midlands Opportunity](#)
- **Early Stage Angel Investment Fund** – final procurement documents are being agreed and the fund is expected to be launched in June 2023
- at the **Big 6 Local** meeting, Midlands Connect promoted their [Economy & Freight survey](#) to build a picture of freight demand, issues and opportunities across the region; the University of Nottingham are looking for partners in the [Creating Opportunities Trial Accelerator Fund](#) application (applications open June 2023) - contact Cher cher.li@nottingham.ac.uk or James james.phipps@nesta.org.uk if you are interested in being a partner
- **Business Growth indicators** show that employment growth of 2.2% has increased to above pre-pandemic levels but less than national level; start up rates have risen faster than pre-pandemic at 12.3% is greater than national rate; and businesses exporting had increased by 2% against the national decrease of 5%; indicators also show a large increase in vacancies requiring green skills; links to D2N2 [data centre](#) and [funding tracker](#), latter showing new funding competitions for life sciences, automotive, wind and decarbonisation
- there was a discussion about high employment levels meaning that there was less demand from adult training courses and a need to develop the next generation to meet employer demands; some employers responding to the LSIP survey were unaware of the D2N2 Careers Hub and it was agreed that a joint marketing campaign would be useful to raise the profile of the Careers Hub

**ACTION: Careers Hub marketing campaign with partners to be developed**

## 8. **D2N2 Growth Hub update** – Tom Goshawk

- see Chris's report sent out with the agenda
- Growth Hub core funding has now been confirmed, which will be used for the enquiry team, advisers and website

## 9. **Any other business**

- D2N2 Hydrogen Taskforce has a remit to promote D2N2 and wider region as a hydrogen hub; promotional event is being planned
- Capital Fund opportunity is expected to be announced soon; the fund will require 50% match funding and outcomes are expected for jobs, homes and learners
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund – 7 Nottinghamshire local authorities are working together to commission their UK SPF programmes; Nottinghamshire County Council are the lead organisation; [business support open calls](#) have been launched with a deadline of 16/5/23 for applications on the themes of innovation/research and development, business support services and decarbonisation; People & Skills open

call will follow when details finalised; Derbyshire local authorities are also working together to develop a D2 UK SPF programme

- applications for the [King's Award for Enterprise](#) open 6/5/23, deadline for applications 12/9/23; Will to invite Nichola Bruno, Head of the King's Award for Enterprise, to attend August meeting

**ACTION:** Will to invite Nichola Bruno, Head of the King's Award for Enterprise, to attend August meeting

Meeting dates 2023 (all 10.00-12.00)

August 22<sup>nd</sup>

November 9<sup>th</sup>

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