

**D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP  
PEOPLE & SKILLS ADVISORY BOARD**

Date: Wednesday 18th October 2023, 10.00am-12.00pm  
 Venue: Teams Meeting

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Attendees**

Edward Peck	Nottingham Trent University
Adam Doyle	University of Derby
Adam Holmes	Dept for Business & Trade
Amanda Payne	Futures
Asif Mohammed	ESFA
Chris Hobson	East Midlands Chamber
Chris Pook	Nottingham City Council
Denise Baker	University of Derby
Julie Beresford	Bassetlaw District Council
Martin Frost	South Derbyshire District Council
Nicola Caley	Murray Park School
Nick Booth	Uniper
Sonja Smith	Nottinghamshire County Council
Veronica Dennant	Newark and Sherwood DC
Fiona Baker	D2N2 LEP
Will Morlidge	D2N2 LEP
Nicola Swaney	D2N2 LEP
Richard Kirkland	D2N2 LEP
Dave Tuer	D2N2 LEP
Lana Jay	D2N2 LEP
Laura Wilkins	D2N2 LEP
Liam Jackson	D2N2 LEP
Sandra Casey (notes)	D2N2 LEP

**Apologies**

Mike Roylance	South Derbyshire District Council
Ian Bond	Inspire Culture
Jennie Willock	Futures
Joe Battye	Derbyshire County Council
Penny Halewood	Groundwork Five Counties
Liz Wigley	Dept for Business & Trade
Lisa Hawes	ESFA
Lee Osborne	Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
Andy Williams	Derbyshire County Council

<b>Actions from meeting</b>	
Anyone wishing to join the STEP Skill Centre partnership to get in touch with Julie Beresford, Bassetlaw District Council	All
Anyone wishing to join the D2N2 newsletter mailing list or contribute to a news story/case study to contact Nicola Swaney	All

#### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Welcomes and introductions were made. Apologies listed above.

#### 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 18 July 2023 were accepted as a true record. Matters arising are complete or ongoing.

#### 4. Devolution and Skills progress – Sonja Smith, Nottinghamshire County Council

See Sonja's [presentation](#) and FSB update on [Local Skills Implementation Plan](#)

- The East Midlands Mayoral County Combined Authority cannot formally exist until the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill is enacted
- The EMMCCA has applied for the level 3 deal which brings the highest level of devolved decision making, including responsibility for the Adult Education Budget, implementing the Local Skills Improvement Plan recommendations, employment support services in partnership with DWP and Free Courses for Jobs
- Joe Battye leads the skills working group which includes all 4 upper tier authorities Fiona and Dave Tuer
- Skills landscape mapping work is being undertaken, and identifying pathways from L3 to higher technical skills, which will require collaborating with HE colleagues to realise ambitions; the current FE/HE partnership between Vision West Notts College and Nottingham Trent University is opening up additional funding in the Mansfield area
- The devolution of AEB and the move to a more locally commissioned skills offer may help to address duplication of funding from different government departments

#### 5. STEP Skills Update – Julie Beresford, Bassetlaw District Council

- The STEP Skills Centre is planned to be constructed in advance of the STEP energy plant being built on the former West Burton Power Plant site
- The UK Atomic Energy Authority announced in June the procurement for a lead partner to manage the skills centre, delivering L3-L7
- Bassetlaw District Council are working with 'travel to learn' partners in south Yorkshire and Lincolnshire to bring together a consortium of organisations from FE, HE, local authorities, LEPs and independent training providers. This recognises the strong collaborative ethos already present in the area, and offers local providers the opportunity to deliver the curriculum identified by UKAEA.
- A response to the Prior Information Notice has been submitted and the next stage in the process is that the partnership will be presenting their offer and a

partnership prospectus to UK AEA on 8/11/23

**ACTION: anyone wishing to join the STEP Skills Centre partnership to get in touch with Julie Beresford, Bassetlaw District Council**

## 6. Aligning funded skills activity and opportunities for future collaboration

See Fiona's [slide](#)

- The current skills landscape can seem complicated with fragmentation of funding and changes to the organisations through which funding flows; devolution offers an opportunity to align skills opportunities, reducing duplication, having the greatest impact and giving best value for public money
- The skills landscape mapping exercise will help to identify gaps and duplication, and will need to include future developments such as the EM Institute of Technology, STEP Skills Centre and Investment Zones; some skills provision is geographically targeted at a 'travel to learn' level
- Suggestion of skills providers focusing on their strengths to be more successful, and to develop a pipeline of projects to be ready to deliver when funding announcements are made
- Chris Hobson advised that the Leicester & Leicestershire Local Skills Improvement Plan identifies 3 strategic aims, a framework of actions and recommended leads for each aim/action

## 7. Education Landscape – comms update

See Nicola's [slide](#)

- [The Education Landscape – A Guide for Employers](#), produced by the Careers & Enterprise Company and partners including D2N2, has been published
- Regular people and skills articles are now being published on the D2N2 website, X and LinkedIn, and via our fortnightly newsletter

**ACTION: anyone wishing to join the D2N2 newsletter mailing list or contribute to a news story/case study to contact Nicola Swaney**

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

See Fiona's [report](#) previously circulated

- Fiona and Sonja Smith (Notts County Council) attended the Connected Futures conference last week, delivering a presentation on the programme in D2N2; our programme is focused on barriers to employment for young people with autism and learning difficulties, and is generating wider interest as recommendation/solutions in the geographical area could be rolled out at greater scale across the country; Phase 1 is focusing on what change can we influence and identify what actions to pilot in Phase 2
- The 4 Cornerstone employer networks are now all meeting together and have identified a number of local projects to take forward from national priorities; the network includes a wide variety of business sizes and sectors
- An application has been made to DfE for the wave 5 of the Skills Bootcamp programme; we expect to hear the outcome in November
- The Employment sub group is undertaking a mapping exercise of local authority Shared Prosperity Fund skills provision, which will include information on what's

working and lessons learned

**8. Any Other Business**

None.

**9. Dates of 2024 meetings**

Meetings will take place via Teams.

Thursday 11th January 2024, 1.00-3.00

Wednesday 24th April 2024, 10.00-12.00

Tuesday 16th July 2024, 10.00-12.00

Thursday 17th October 2024, 10.00-12.00