**Item 1.3: CONFIRMED Key Decision/Action Points from Board**

**D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING**

Thursday 8 June 2023

BioCity Innovation Building, Pennyfoot Street, Nottingham NG1 1GF (and via Teams)

Chair Elizabeth Fagan CBE

Minutes Sally Hallam

**Present and Apologies**

**D2N2 Board Members in Attendance**

Dr Glenn Crocker MBE Executive Director, The Pioneer Group

Tim Freeman Deputy MD, Toyota UK

Cllr Keith Girling Portfolio Holder, Nottinghamshire County Council

Natasha Johnson Director of Partnerships, Global Entrepreneurs UK

Scott Knowles CEO, East Midlands Chamber

Prof Edward Peck CBE VC and President, Nottm Trent University

Tony Tinley Regional Officer, Unite the Union

Liz Wigley Area Lead Derby/Derbys, DBT

**Apologies from Board Members**

Graham Cartledge Chairman, Handley House Ltd

Cllr Chris Emmas-Williams Leader, Amber Valley Borough Council

Cllr David Mellen Leader, Nottingham City Council

Cllr Carolyn Renwick Portfolio Holder, Derbyshire County Council

Becky Rix Marketing Director, Roadgas

Viv Russell CEO, Minerals Products Qualifications Council

Cllr Baggy Shanker Leader, Derby City Council

Mandie Stravino OBE Principal and CEO, Derby College Group

David Williams Chair, Geldards, Deputy Chair D2N2

**Also in attendance**

Chris Henning Executive Director Place, Derbyshire County Council

Sarah Wainwright Senior Finance Officer, Derbyshire County Council

Tom Whitlam Area Co-ordinator, DBT

**D2N2 Officer Support**

Fiona Baker

Tom Goshawk

Lana Jay

Will Morlidge

Nicola Swaney

Maureen Vieyra

* 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

**1.2 Declarations of interest**

No Declarations were made.

**1.3 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The Minutes of the meeting on 9 March 2023 were confirmed as a true record.

**2. Strategic Discussion Items**

**2.1 D2N2 Chair’s Report**

Elizabeth Fagan introduced the Chair’s Report updating Members on significant developments since the last meeting and drew Members’ attention to the detailed notes therein.

She invited Nicola Swaney to summarise the session hosted by D2N2 at UKREiif.

NS reported that work had been undertaken ahead of the event with Invest in Nottingham, Marketing Derby and Destination Chesterfield to promote this event, the aim of which was to highlight devolution opportunities and inward investment potential for the region. Our strength in collaboration, as well as working with the four upper tier authorities, meant that D2N2 was well-placed to present the best possible picture for the region.

Will Morlidge added that feedback on the success of the event had been very positive, but that steps were already under way to plan for an even better event next year. It was proposed to work under a combined authority banner for the event next time, while pulling in contributions from partners such as the Freeport.

The Chair welcomed the report of obvious productive engagement with the event.

On the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), Prof Peck felt that the process had been well run, with universities and FE colleges welcoming seeing an early draft and the focus on broad cross-cutting themes. As a university, NTU was looking to use this to guide provision in collaboration with FE locally.

Fiona Baker endorsed this, adding that particular efforts had been made to engage with a wide range of partners and stakeholders and positive initial feedback had been received from DfE.

Scott Knowles echoed endorsement of the LSIP process. He updated the Board on the Chamber-led LSIP work in Leicester and Leicestershire, which was launching its product at the same time as this meeting.

WM updated the group on feedback from the FE Principals’ meeting, where there had been a range of views, including some areas feeling more focus could have been applied to place/sector. Overall, however, the FE colleges felt this was a helpful first LSIP which the region should build on.

On Freeport work, the Chair noted that after a challenging start and some delays, this appeared now to be in a good place to work on bringing more inward investment into the region. She appealed to Members to put themselves in behind the Freeport to support the overall regeneration of the economic region.

WM informed Members that he had attended a recent meeting with good representation from local authorities and businesses present. With the staff team for the Freeport now in place, partnership working was stronger than ever. Many bodies had remit for inward investment including the Freeport, DevCo, LAs, LEPs, government and investment promotion agencies. It was also assumed that there would be a key role for the EMMCCA on inward investment. Ensuring a consistent and powerful message from all East Midlands partners to our businesses, to government and to potential investors was vital. Those messages would need to be tailored at times to mean the additional inclusion of Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Rutland where appropriate.

WM also confirmed that he was part of the working group on Investment Zones and invited Chris Henning to update Board on any progress with formalising the locations of potential sites.

CH confirmed ongoing discussions with DHLUC, with a senior level inception meeting scheduled for next week, having agreed a sector focus around clean- and green-tech.

No sites had been formally agreed yet, but two were expected to be confirmed shortly.

WM spoke to the proposed East Midlands Hydrogen partnership, formed as a result of the Hydrogen Task Force. East Midlands Hydrogen was led by D2N2, Cadent and Uniper, with LLEP, Midlands Engine and Midlands Net Zero Hub also key partners.

Nicola Swaney confirmed details of the upcoming launch event for East Midlands Hydrogen, taking place on 22 September at Toyota. NS thanked Tim Freeman for agreeing to host this. The event would provide a forum for all key players to discuss production, storage and end-to-end business use of hydrogen. Board Members would all be receiving an invitation to attend.

Board **NOTED** the report.

**2.2 Capital Programme Report**

Tom Goshawk introduced his report updating Members on the D2N2 Capital Programme and recently introduced Economic Growth Fund, which had been created from the reallocated £2.6m Drakelow Park Getting Building Fund.

Minimum bids would be of £500k and projects must support economic growth in the D2N2 economy through the delivery of Jobs, Homes and Learners. Only one project per organisation would be permitted. Submissions were due to close on 23 June, with scoring taking place on the first week of July and applicants informed thereafter. Projects would be taken to a July Investment Board for approval before coming back to this Board for final sign off.

Board **NOTED** the report.

In the absence of public attending the meeting, the Chair asked Tony Tinley to give a confidential oral update to the group on recent discussions with DSF Refractories. Our recent meeting with DSF did not agree a solution. Further meetings would take place to try to find a mutually-acceptable way forward.

**2.3 Finance Update Report**

Sarah Wainwright introduced her report updating Board on draft accounts for 2022/23 and setting a deficit budget to be submitted for 2023/24, which would be covered by reserves. Commencement of audit work by HSKS Audit Ltd was still awaited.

The Chair reiterated that the LEP was in good shape, particularly in relation to some other LEPs which did not have similar levels of reserves. A reduced allocation of £250k had been notified by DHLUC and the expectation was that match-funding to 50% would be provided by the local authorities. Ongoing discussions were under way over this.

In response to a question from Prof Peck as to why such a large reserve had been held not spent, EF confirmed that previously most funding had come from grant monies, allowing a cash fund to build up and this had benefited from recent interest rates. The new combined authority would only come into being after appropriate legislation had been passed and if this did not happen before this summer’s recess, the LEP would potentially need to operate for another year before joining any new structure.

Chris Henning confirmed that no update on timing for the legislation had been obtained from recent local authority contact with parliamentary representatives, although the importance of moving devolution along had been strongly re-stated.

Board **NOTED** the report.

**2.4 Report on D2N2’s role in inclusion**

Before handing over to Natasha Johnson, WM prefaced this item with a reminder to Board that since the departure of the previous Board Member for inclusion, the Inclusion Group had been in abeyance. Additionally, ESF funding had been lost which had been a key contributor to our role on inclusion. The purpose of the requested discussion was to consider the role of inclusion within the LEP’s work and whether there was also a role for the LEP in influencing the direction of the new EMMCCA.

Natasha Johnson informed Board of information-gathering work that she had undertaken to look at how other LEPs and CAs operated, noting that good practice had been seen in the West Midlands CA in particular.

Prof Peck voiced his support for inclusion, both in principle and in the way it should play out in practical decisions taken by the LEP. He referred NJ to a report, “Models for Inclusive Growth”, that had previously been produced by NTU in collaboration with colleagues at Derby as a potentially useful starting point from which to build a refreshed strategy.

Elizabeth Fagan echoed support for considering growth within the concept of inclusive practice, as opposed to inclusion for the sake of it. Using the NTU report as a starting point, she asked Natasha Johnson and Tony Tinley if they would work together to look at re-setting a refreshed Inclusive Growth Advisory Board to hold other ABs to account.

Nicola Swaney drew attention to the need for social mobility to be part of the discussion, referencing material from the Derby Opportunity Area that could be accessed to support development work on this. She indicated that she would be happy to provide executive support to the Board Members in preparing a paper to bring to the next meeting.

Board **NOTED** the report and the proposed actions.

**ACTION**: Nicola Swaney to work with Tony Tinley and Natasha Johnson on development of a refreshed inclusion brief.

**2.5 Updated Delivery Plan to 2025**

WM introduced his paper on the revised version of the Delivery Plan.

He drew Members’ attention to the detailed notes therein. Any additional comments were invited from the group.

Board **AGREED** a revised version of the Delivery Plan, subject to final clearance of minor changes by the Chair.

**2.6 Chief Executive Officer’s Report**

WM introduced his report updating Members amongst other matters on skills work, including strong progress by the Careers Hub, increased partnership working between universities within D2N2 and joint work with the Freeport on inward investment.

Board **NOTED** the report with thanks.

**2.7 EXEMPT item Early-Stage Angel Investment Fund**

Tom Goshawk spoke to an exempt paper, updating Board members on preparations to launch the Early-Stage Angel Investment Fund.

Board **NOTED** the report.

**3. Any Other Business**

WM raised the need for confirmation of match-funding from the local authorities for the field-based Enterprise Co-ordinator posts, which was still outstanding. ERDF match funding for some posts would end in December, 2023 making the need for continued match from the LAs even more important.

Board **AGREED** that one further contact be made initially by the LEP CEO to the respective authorities, with escalation to the Chair if no response was received.

**4. Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting Thursday 31 August 2023 (venue tbc)