

## D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP PEOPLE & SKILLS ADVISORY BOARD

Date: Thursday 11th January 2024, 1.00pm-3.00pm  
Venue: Teams Meeting

### MINUTES OF MEETING

#### Attendees

Edward Peck Chair	Nottingham Trent University
Jason Austin	RNN Group
Richard Blackmore	East Midlands Chamber
Ian Bond	Inspire Culture
Brad Ebanks	Dept for Business & Trade
Tom Whitlam	Dept for Business & Trade
Jennie Willock	Futures
Joe Battye	Derbyshire County Council
Andy Williams	Derbyshire County Council
Lisa Hawes	ESFA
Lee Osborne	Federation of Small Businesses
James Illesley	Federation of Small Businesses
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
Sharon Buckby	Derby City Council
Damien Dacey	East Midlands Devolution
Richard Grice	East Midlands Devolution
Andrew Comyn	Nottingham College
Lauren Harvey	Lincoln College
Kath Michell	University of Derby
Len Tildsley	Buxton & Leek College
Mandie Stravino	Derby College
Mike Durban	University of Nottingham
John Beaty	Burton & South Derbyshire College
Andrew Copley	Vision West Notts College
Louise Knott	Vision West Notts College
Fiona Baker	D2N2 LEP
Will Morlidge	D2N2 LEP
Tom Goshawk	D2N2 LEP
Nicola Swaney	D2N2 LEP
Lana Jay	D2N2 LEP
Lucie Andrews	D2N2 LEP
Sandra Casey (notes)	D2N2 LEP

## 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Welcomes and introductions were made.

Apologies were received from Liz Wigley, Penny Halewood, Chris Hobson, Mike Roylance and Leigh Mackenzie.

## 2. EMMCA and the skills agenda

The meeting had a single agenda item to brief members on current progress on the journey to devolution, enabling a wide-ranging discussion on skills and education in the development of the EMCCA and its contribution to the region's economic prosperity. Invitations to attend were extended to all universities and FEC Colleges within D2N2.

The meeting started with a presentation from colleagues working on the transition of oversight of the skills agenda from Westminster to the EMMCCA. There was a particular emphasis on Level 4 and above provision which had received – understandably give the current focus of devolved powers - less attention to date.

See the [EMMCA presentation](#)

### Discussion points:

- L4 does not include 16-18 year olds in Further Education
- an overarching skills plan is being developed; it is not clear at this stage how flexible devolved funding will be so it is not clear if skills announcements made in other Combined Authority areas are aspirational or have been approved by government
- other sources of funding may be drawn upon to enable flexibilities, for example via investment zones, freeports, gainshare, investment revolving funds
- need to be cognisant that large % of current funding within AEB is aimed at L1-L2 statutory entitlement
- substantial investment into the area through the student loans company via the enrolment of undergraduate students at universities
- role of universities to attract students, provide progression opportunities, and retain graduates in the area is key to skills agenda
- HEPs need to work together to analyse data to identify why people stay in the area once graduated as well as where local students originate, what they study and what they do in their first jobs
- skills plan needs to incorporate all skill levels, supporting those furthest from the labour market to L4 and above
- remember that universities are contributing to the L3 and below skills landscape via UKSPF apprenticeship schemes and Skills Bootcamps
- skills plan needs to have area-based approach, not looked at in isolation but as part of socio-economic solutions incorporating transport, health, growth and productivity, balancing local v regional needs, providing pathways for progression for all levels for both skills and jobs
- funding can be maximised through collaborative working at all levels, in particular FE / HE and employers
- there is a challenge to recruiting teaching staff with technical/industry standard skills and there is a disparity between FE and HE salaries

- role of the D2N2 Careers Hub to work with employers and offer careers advice to young people and career changers
- resources needed to promote sectors where there is a lack of skilled staff, for example in health and social care
- look at the Institute of Technology model as it transitions from current skills provision to future needs fulfilment, with clear career pathways
- mayor may look to businesses to provide solutions but role of current providers to deliver on behalf of local communities, example of Our Derby Promise being set up to offer career opportunities to local people

### What now?

- group members encouraged to review the presentation and notes, and share ideas to include in the strategic skills plan, being bold in priorities and bringing together HE/FE and business partners and including the voice of young people
- skills plan to benefit from research and experience of current and previous programmes, for example the Local Skills Improvement Plan, the Local Skills Improvement Fund, and the Institute of Technology
- set a local completion date for the compilation of a comprehensive strategic skills plan with discussion of what will be needed to do so at the next meeting
- AEB provider briefing session planned for late January/early Feb – details to be circulated

### **3. Dates of 2024 meetings**

Meetings will take place via Teams.

Wednesday 24th April 2024, 10.00-12.00

Tuesday 16th July 2024, 10.00-12.00

Thursday 17th October 2024, 10.00-12.00