

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Issue 15 August 2011

D2N2 has been the subject of an independent study, the findings of which have just been published. SQW was appointed by the Local Government Group to provide support to Local Enterprise Partnerships. It has researched a number of case studies of LEPs, including D2N2, and has reported on how challenges are being met (the full report can be read [here](#)).

Key findings of the report for D2N2 are:

- the LEP Board is relatively small with only 10 members and it appears to have achieved an efficient, business-like and focused way of working
- the regular monthly meetings of lead officers have helped to tie key partners into the initiative and have ensured that there is good communication between them
- identifying LEP Board champions for key topics appears to be an effective means of focusing attention and accelerating discussions
- the Enterprise Zone is recognised as an asset for this LEP area but challenges remain in the design of the Zone
- evidence suggests that some local businesses, who are used to relating to emda and its funding programmes, have yet to understand how the LEP and its approach is different and these expectations need to be managed
- currently, a fairly broad set of strategic themes is being developed to ensure a rounded approach to economic development, but the LEP Board will need to be selective in how it engages with these themes

There are also a number of challenges facing the LEP:

- much of the attention in respect of business engagement has been on the high level business representation secured for the LEP Board, but all levels of business need to be engaged intelligently across the LEP area

- currently, a fairly broad set of strategic themes is being developed, to ensure a rounded approach to economic development, but the LEP Board will need to be selective in how it engages with these themes and will undoubtedly need a clearer and narrower set of priorities for its own work

The LEP Board is taking priority action to ensure that these issues are addressed.



“Stop Press” - Enterprise Zones

Following the announcement that Nottingham is to get an Enterprise Zone on the Alliance Boots site near Beeston, D2N2 submitted a proposal for the creation of a second Enterprise Zone at Markham Vale, North Derbyshire.

The Sheffield City Region LEP also submitted proposals for a multi-site Enterprise Zone along the M1 corridor, to include Markham Vale site.

To date, the proposal submitted by D2N2 has been rejected. It is, at the time of publication, unclear whether Sheffield will continue to promote Markham Vale.

Derby City Council, as part of its call to Government for help in combating the economic shocks in the city, is exploring the possibility of submitting a late bid for Enterprise Zone status for parts of the city centre. A formal proposal will be submitted if there is confirmation from Government that it will be given serious consideration.

Other news from the Board

The D2N2 Board met for the third time on 8 June 2011 at Loxley House in Nottingham. The Board discussed in-depth the Regional Growth Fund submission "Driving Enterprise Growth" in the D2N2 area.

As Board Champion for Tourism, the Duke of Devonshire spoke about the importance of tourism to D2N2 economy. Presentations from VisitEngland, Experience Nottinghamshire and Visit Peak District and Derbyshire engendered a good discussion. The Duke summarised next steps: Visit Peak District and Experience Nottinghamshire, whilst retaining their separate identities, are to work collaboratively to: effectively promote tourism across the D2N2 area; identify profitable, creative opportunities for partnerships with businesses; and to explore the potential of developing / promoting the area's industrial heritage.

If successful, this vital submission will ensure that there is continued local support for businesses and start ups after the closure of the Business Link network.

The following decisions were also made:

- Jon Collins was nominated as D2N2 LEP Board representative for the East Midlands ERDF Local Management Committee Board
- the branding for D2N2 LEP was adopted
- the next Board meeting will be held on 28 September 2011 at Bombardier in Derby. The main issues to be considered will be the Economic Profile update, Prospects for Manufacturing in D2N2 and Transport Strategic Priorities

Theme Groups

D2N2 has set up a number of theme groups, these being:

	Lead
Enterprise and Sector Support	Derby
Innovation	Derby
Employment & Skills	Nottingham
Digital Infrastructure	Nottinghamshire
Inward Investment	DNCC
Promotion & Tourism	Derbyshire
Infrastructure	Nottingham
Low Carbon Economy	Nottinghamshire
Financial Mechanisms	Nottingham

The Inward Investment Theme Group has met twice and agreed that the three key delivery coordinators will be Invest in Nottingham, Marketing Derby and Derby Economic Partnership. Invest in Nottingham and Derbyshire Economic Partnership will coordinate the input of District Councils in the two counties.

The Group has met with the UKTI contract holders for attracting Foreign Direct Investment and will be considering a Memorandum of Understanding. One of eight national offices for this team will be located in Nottingham, co-located with DNCC at its NG2 office.

Regional Growth Fund

The outcome of the second round of the Regional Growth Fund applications is still awaited. Key applications were submitted for:

- **Derby** -
Global Technology Cluster on land between the Rolls Royce existing Sinfon campus and the A50
- **Nottingham/Nottinghamshire** -
Capital investment in the visitor economy
- **Nottingham** -
enabling work for the Alliance Boots site Enterprise Zone
- **D2N2 LEP** -
Driving Enterprise Growth
- **Derby** -
Bid to mitigate the effects of job losses in the City



Bombardier Situation

Whilst D2N2 has not been directly involved in the campaign in support of Bombardier and its attempt to secure the Crossrail contract, it has been fully supportive of the efforts of its partner organisations in lobbying the Government to look at the decision again.

D2N2 is currently engaged with the Economic Response Taskforce, which was set up by Business Secretary Vince Cable to mitigate the economic impacts of recent developments in Derby. It has also endorsed the Regional Growth Fund aimed at stimulating the Derby economy and promoting job creation to absorb the recent losses in the city.