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CONFIRMED Key Decision/Action Points from Board

(Wednesday, 12 July, 2017)



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D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, 12 July, 2017

Edwinstowe House, Borough High Street Edwinstowe Nottinghamshire NG21 9PR

Chair Peter Richardson

Minutes Sally Hallam

1. Present and Apologies

D2N2 Board Members in Attendance

CLlr Roger Blaney	Newark and Sherwood District Council
CLlr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
CLlr Martin Rawson	(sub) Derby City Council
CLlr Sam Webster	(sub) Nottingham City Council
CLlr Bob Wheeler	S D CLlr Bob Wheeler
Andrew Pickin	Business Representative
David Williams	Business Representative
Melanie Ulyatt	Business Representative
Peter Gadsby	Business Representative
Prof Edward Peck	H E Representative
Dawn Ward	F E Representative



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Also in attendance

Scott Knowles	East Midlands Chamber Chief Executive
Adrian Smith	Nottinghamshire County Council (sub for CEO)
Chris Henning	Nottingham City Council (sub for CEO)
Mike Ashworth	Derbyshire County Council (sub for CEO)
Christine Durrant	Derby City Council (sub for CEO)
Andrew Muter	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Justin Homer	BEIS (sub for Area Director)

Officer Support

David Ralph	Chief Executive, D2N2 LEP
Matthew Wheatley	Growth Plan Manager
Lindsay Allen	Senior Programme Manager, D2N2 LEP

Guest speakers

Richard Blackmore	CBI
Prof Richard Kneller	University of Nottingham

Apologies

These were received from Board members Ian Morgan, Jane Howson, David Williams (Geldards), Cllr Mrs Kay Cutts, Cllr Ranjit Banwait and Cllr Jon Collins. From the supporting officers Anthony May, Ian Curryer, Ian Stephenson and Paul Robinson sent apologies with a substitute representative. Frank McArdle sent apologies with regrets that no officer was available to attend in support.

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1.1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

1.2 Declarations of Interest

None received.

1.3 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May, 2017 were approved as a true record.

On matters arising, Chris Henning made reference to the note regarding further clarity on the Skills portal.

There were no other matters arising other than those already covered on the agenda.

2. Updates for Information

2.1 Chair's Report

The Chair introduced a report including an update on Business Engagement, an interim report on the LEP review and next steps for Midlands Engine.

He invited Board member Andrew Pickin to give a verbal update to members on Business Engagement.

AP provided a short summary of views from the business community on skills, the cost of doing business, exports Midlands Engine progress and infrastructure/connectivity following a meeting with representatives of CBI, Chamber, FSB and the Growth Hub.

On skills, businesses were reporting shortages in skilled workers, which affected the ability of companies to grow. Where appropriately qualified staff could be found, premium rates of pay were required to secure them. There had been a 60% drop in seasonal workers in the region.

Businesses continued to express significant concerns on the increasing cost of doing business, with a number of businesses reporting feeling pressured by the need to mitigate business rates and costs associated with regime change post-Brexit.

Board member Melanie Ulyatt also flagged up Government proposals for tariffs for clean air zones in an effort to improve carbon footprint, the likely costs of which would adversely affect small businesses in particular. This message had been fed back to Government via the FSB.

On exports, positive messages continued to be given with strong export figures and companies seeking new emerging markets outside the EU.

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On Midlands Engine, the general feeling was that impetus had stalled somewhat and that the East Midlands could not and should not wait for Midlands Engine to seek permission from Government to express its priorities or lobby for investment.

With regard to infrastructure, businesses highlighted as their top priority the need to continue to improve digital infrastructure including the rollout of 5G as an early priority. There was still concern over East-West connectivity in the Midlands and the need to improve journey times to London.

A short discussion ensued in response to the Chair's invitation to members to comment. Cllr Blaney reminded the group that announcement of the final HS2 route including the Toton to Sheffield section was due shortly and may give impetus to a request to a re-think about the stalled plans to electrify the Midland main line. Melanie Ulyatt informed members that the FSB had prepared a report on the cost of doing business, which she could pass on.

In the absence of David Williams (Geldards), the Chair introduced the initial draft report on the D2N2 review showing some of the issues that had so far been drawn out. A few clear priorities for the LEP needed to be identified – these should dovetail with the Midlands Engine so that Government could see a clear plan to which they might agree.

A short general discussion ensued. In response to the issue of influence by the private sector, the Chair highlighted that they often felt they had insufficient knowledge of the issues to feed back appropriately. As a related issue, there continued to be concern that the Board lacked the input and impact that could be provided by senior representatives of big business who had been invited onto Board in the past but who had found it difficult to attend meetings or spare much time to be really involved. One suggestion put forward was within a competitive framework to approach large employers again with a request to use meeting space at their venues in an effort to make it more convenient for their representatives to attend, but the issue of what the LEP could offer to big business to persuade them to engage remained. Prof Peck reported that at a recent steering group meeting there had been discussion about whether businesses should best be represented through LEPs or via an advisory group to the Midlands Engine: the view had been expressed that businesses could only be engaged so many times in essentially the same conversation.

On the response to the Midlands Engine Strategy, David Ralph reported that there were two pieces of work currently ongoing: a governance review including the role of the business board being overseen by a nominations committee and the finalisation of an action plan with key conclusions to put to Government later in the summer.

Board NOTED the report.

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ACTION: DW (Geldards) to address the issue of how to engage big business and to get correspondence out to Board communicating this.

ACTION: MU to pass on FSB report.

3. Items for Decision

3.1 Chief Executive's Report

David Ralph presented an update report including the key conclusions of the 2017 State of the Economy Review and D2N2 Performance Dashboard, the findings of the productivity review and next steps for SEP refresh, the endorsement of bids for the National Productivity Investment Fund and the 2017/18 Communications Plan.

He drew attention to the key events since the last meeting and reported to Board that, since preparing the written paper, Government had announced a £2.3bn pot for housing infrastructure and the Department for Transport had also published its transport infrastructure strategy, which was moving away from funding national roads as a priority and focusing instead on major roads.

On the State of the Economy Review, DR summarised the key findings that would be communicated at the forthcoming D2N2 Annual Conference, namely that the LEP area economy was continuing to perform strongly overall although performance had slowed over the first few months of the year. The GVA by sector showed that sectors such as manufacturing were performing well. Housing supply continued to be a concern as it was performing well below target both for the area and as against national comparators. However as yet, the LEP has few levers to directly influence this including the lack of support from central government to provide local authorities the flexibility in their HRA to directly deliver more homes.

With the strong performance to date of delivering private-sector jobs, the refreshed SEP (Local Industrial Strategy) was likely to focus on increasing productivity and inclusivity.

Board was being given an overview of emerging evidence at this meeting, with a view to running a series of workshops to consider additional information in more detail ahead of publication of the refreshed SEP in early 2018. Guest speakers Prof Richard Kneller from the University of Nottingham and Richard Blackmore from the CBI gave short presentations on 'Unlocking Regional Growth' and 'How D2N2 can raise productivity'. Research had shown that in this area there were more firms with productivity a little below average and too few with productivity just above average. The suggested course of action was to target those firms in

the middle to raise productivity by supporting increased investment in new capital and addressing the identified gaps in exporting and management skills.

Board NOTED the key messages of the 2017 State of the Economy Review and D2N2 Dashboard, the conclusions of the productivity review and the proposed next steps for the SEP.

Board ENDORSED bids for National Productivity Investment Fund as outlined in the report as follows:

Derby City Council

- Derby Bus Station Extension (£3.6m) – development of the bus interchange hub to connect to regional facilities such as the new HS2 station and airport. This will provide access and support growth of the Derby Urban Area including a further 18,000 homes up to 2028 and supporting regeneration in the city centre providing access to leisure facilities.
- A5111 Transport Network Capacity Improvements (£5m) – New works to support substantial growth, particularly in the south of the city and support the world leading businesses located within the city.

Derbyshire County Council

- Staveley Spur (£5m)– This will provide a short access road and bridge over the River Rother to unlock economic potential and support job creation on the disused Staveley Chemical Works Site.
- Using Intelligent Transport Systems (£3.5m) - This submission is centred on providing real time travel information to road and public transport users to assist them in making informed decisions around travel and therefore increase network efficiency.

Nottingham City Council

- Informed Travellers and Congestion Relief (£3.2m) – Variable messaging signs and Intelligent/Adaptive SCOOT junction linking along the A60 Corridor along London Road, Lower Parliament Street and Huntingdon Street between the A6011 Meadow Lane Junction and Glasshouse Street.

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- EMV Contactless Payment (£3.4m) - Account Based ticketing on bus and tram across the Greater Nottingham Robin Hood Network which incorporates all major commercial and contracted public transport operators.

Nottinghamshire County Council

- A611 Ashfield / Mansfield Corridor junction improvements (£2m) – The improvement of two junctions to unlock economic growth potential and housing through the alleviation of congestion.

It was noted that the NPIF bid for Gamston had been withdrawn.

4. Standing Items – Updates

4.1 Skills

Melanie Ulyatt introduced a report updating Board on Skills work currently being undertaken, including information-gathering on the skills mismatch, ESF TA consultancy work, Skills Portal for D2N2 Growth Hub and the Careers and Enterprise Company.

She drew Board's attention to the report that had been commissioned on skills mismatches, the findings of which were to be presented to a roundtable workshop on 13 July. The workshop would be looking at ways of engaging with the education sector to communicate the key messages and the evidence within the report would be fed into the Skills and Employability Strategy and emerging SEP. There was full awareness of the size of the task and the need to focus on what was realistically achievable to address identified gaps.

Board NOTED the report.

4.2 D2N2 Business Growth Hub Update Report

David Williams gave a short verbal update to the meeting on progress with the Growth Hub and thanked members for feedback that had been given along the way. With BEIS funding secured until March 2018, the Scale Up project had been procured.

He reiterated earlier requests to ensure that the system worked well for all by asking Districts to engage and work with the Growth Hub to maximise all of our resources and provide a good service to businesses. He confirmed that the Growth Hub would discuss directly with

Derbyshire more effective and more joined-up delivery to minimise duplication, increase penetration and services to the business community.

Board NOTED the developments with Growth Hub.

ACTION: LA to investigate further how best to support Derbyshire and meet with stakeholders.

4.3 (i) and (ii) Enterprise Zone Nottingham and Derby

Peter Gadsby introduced an update report covering progress in the Enterprise Zone and invited any comments from Board.

Board NOTED the report.

4.3 (iii) EZ Markham Vale

Cllr Lewis presented a report updating Board on continued progress with Markham Vale and the Enterprise Zone in general. A meeting was being sought with Chesterfield to raise again the issue of passporting £1.3m business rates back to Derbyshire now that they had pulled out of involvement with the SCR Combined Authority and to identify what the LEP may be able to do for Chesterfield.

Board NOTED the report.

4.4 GPF Report Capital Projects

Cllr Webster presented a report updating Board on the status of the Growing Places Fund (GPF) programme.

Board NOTED:

- (i) the status of projects including due diligence,

Board AGREED:

- (i) Not to approve the Biocity equity deal proposal
- (ii) The decision to fund the Drakelow Energy Centre loan proposal
- (iii) The decision to defer the loans of DSF and Medicity

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4.5 HS2 Update Report

David Ralph gave a short update on the emerging East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy that would be recommended to the HS2 Programme Board on 27 July, 2017.

Board NOTED progress on the development and delivery of the HS2 East Midlands Growth Strategy.

4.6 Infrastructure and Investment Board

Cllr Lewis introduced the Infrastructure and Investment Board update report. He informed Board that work was being undertaken to strengthen their approach to project management and greater robustness in reporting.

Board AGREED the appointment of Cllr Barry Lewis of Derbyshire County Council as Chair and Cllr Jon Collins of Nottingham City Council as Vice-Chair of IIB;

Board NOTED the project update and high risk matters, annual accounts and LGF 3, Quarter 4 2017 monitoring outputs;

Board APPROVED the changes to the Local Assurance Framework.

5. Any Other Business

David Ralph informed the meeting that in response to the previously identified need for senior management support for IiB, interviews had taken place to recruit a Senior Manager for Growth Deals and Capital Projects and a job offer had been made to a candidate.

6. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 26 September, 2017 (2.00 pm – 4.00pm)

Venue: Nottingham City Council, Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham NG2 3NG