

MINUTES of a meeting of the **D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY** held on 2 July 2021 at County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AG.

PRESENT

Councillor B Lewis
(in the Chair)

<u>Amber Valley Borough Council</u>	<u>High Peak Borough Council</u>
Councillor K BATTERY	Councillor A McKeown
<u>Chesterfield Borough Council</u>	<u>North East Derbyshire District Council</u>
Councillor T Gilby	Councillor C Renwick
<u>Derbyshire County Council</u>	<u>South Derbyshire District Council</u>
Councillor B Lewis	Councillor T Southerd
<u>Erewash Borough Council</u>	
Councillor C A Hart	

Also in Attendance –

Chesterfield Borough Council – H Bowen.

D2N2 LEP – S Rose.

Derby City Council – D Fletcher.

Derbyshire County Council – E Alexander and C Henning.

North East Derbyshire District Council – G Callingham.

South Derbyshire District Council – F McArdle

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor A Dale (North East Derbyshire District Council), Councillor G Purdy (Derbyshire Dales District Council), Lee Hickin (Bolsover District Council), Jeremy Jaroszek (Erewash Borough Council), Julian Townsend (Amber Valley Borough Council), and Paul Wilson (Derbyshire Dales District Council).

09/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were no declarations of interest.

10/21 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

11/21 **LEP UPDATE: VERBAL UPDATE ON LEP REVIEW, PLUS PROGRESS OF FUNDED CAPITAL PROGRAMMES AND LOW CARBON ENERGY GROUP IN THE D2 AREA** A presentation had been shared by S Rose which gave an update on the LEP Review, Capital Programmes and Low Carbon.

The LEP Review 2021 reviewed the changing role of LEPs, triggered by changing the delivery of funding and the focus shifting away from the national industrial strategy. There had been a commitment in the March 2021 budget to review the role of LEPs and this review would be underway led by Paul Scully.

The review would focus on 4 key workstreams:

- Objectives and Functions
- Geographies and Accountabilities
- Representation and Interaction with Local Government
- Implementation and Funding

All workstreams were underway and positive early soundings from Ministers had been received. There had been less clarity on the 'how' and what it would mean in practice and the review could be linked to the Levelling Up White Paper in the Autumn with the implementation from 1st April 2022.

The LEP had two principal grant fund programmes to enable economic growth in the region: £250m Local Growth Fund (finished March 2021); and the £44.4m of Getting Building Fund (Announced July 2020). Both funds were created to stimulate economic growth through the delivery of jobs, homes and learners.

The capital programme had covered a variety of schemes and had directly invested over £258m in the economy since 2015, as well as leveraging in over £400m of investment to the D2N2 Economy.

D2N2 LEP had a list of low carbon priorities to revolutionise the local economy to low carbon energy production, innovation, storage, transport, industry, agriculture and heating. To build a global hub and test bed for low carbon by using the Freeport to stimulate a low carbon energy cluster across other outstanding sites. As well as enable the building of more low carbon homes, promoting carbon literacy in business and inspiring current and future workforces to undertake training, follow careers and adopt lifestyles needed for Net Zero by 2050.

12/21 **APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE TO D2N2 BOARD** There was a vacancy on the D2N2 Board, Councillor Kevin Buttery had been nominated for the position and following a subsequent vote, it had been agreed that Councillor Buttery would fill the vacancy.

13/21 PREPARING AND DELIVERING OUR MARKET TOWN PROGRAMME

An update had been given on the Staveley Town Deal. The Town Investment Plan had been submitted to Government in December 2020 and £25.2m had been confirmed as an allocation. The Heads of Terms had been agreed and signed off in May 2021. The business case development work is now got underway with a deadline of March 2022.

The resources had been agreed and phase one of the programme team recruitment was complete; the second phase was to include an apprentice as part of team. An assurance framework had been developed and approved which included external assurance for all business cases. The Internal CBC Programme Board were meeting regularly and driving business case development. Monitoring and evaluation framework, strategic risk register and funding agreements were all well advanced.

An update was provided on the Clay Cross Town Deal. A selection of working groups had been formed. The remit of these groups:

- Technical groups to support business case development
- All groups either attended by or chaired by a Town Board member
- Advisory basis only
- Reports directly to the Town Board
- Major decisions deferred to Board

The next steps for Clay Cross were to further define the scope of projects to match the funding available, continue the ongoing dialogue with key landowners and businesses to assist land assembly and relocation of businesses, appoint assurance framework consultant, as well as continue to develop business cases with support of consultants and working groups.

An update was provided on the Long Eaton Town Deal. Long Eaton had applied for £24.8m and been allocated all the money requested. Plans for Long Eaton included layout changes to 'The Green' as well as high street improvements. Three unused buildings would be renovated into usable spaces and would host residential and cultural hubs. Other projects included upgrades to the cycle network and the creation of Westpark Waterfront.

Erewash Borough Council would soon move on to bidding for Ilkeston.

14/21 VISION DERBYSHIRE: SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT: REPORT OUTLINING PROPOSAL TO CREATE A FESTIVAL OF DERBYSHIRE

The report sought approval to access the Retained Business Rates Fund to pay for an innovative 'Derbyshire Festival of Business' under the banner of Vision Derbyshire delivered through a partnership led by the University of Derby.

Working under the umbrella of the Vision Derbyshire theme, "Establish Relentless Ambition", the Employment and Skills COVID Recovery Cell had

identified a key intervention to support business recovery in Derbyshire, working with the University of Derby and other delivery partners.

The event was to be managed by the University of Derby and delivered over a month-long window during the Autumn 2021. The overall aim was to help enable the business community to bounce-back from the challenges caused by the pandemic and BREXIT.

RESOLVED to (1) note the overall aims and project proposals set out in the report; and (2) agree the allocation of £43,000, plus VAT, from the Retain Business Rates Fund into a nominated budget within Derbyshire County Council's Economy and Regeneration Service.

15/21 VISION DERBYSHIRE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PILOT: A VERBAL UPDATE OUTLINING PROGRESS OF BUSINESS START-UP PILOT

It had been agreed in December 2020 that 10 Local Authorities would participate in a business start-up programme. All Derbyshire LA's and Derby City had been involved.

There had been a focus on emerging and likely impacts of Covid-19 on the economy. This gave an opportunity for the LA's to work together using their platform to assist businesses. Three applicants had been appointed as start-up advisors, and discussions with the Chief Executive and Leader sponsor for the pilot confirmed a proposal to appoint a fourth adviser and reshape the previously-approved fifth post as a project officer supporting monitoring and evaluation.

16/21 REFRESHING OUR APPROACH TO DELIVERY: INITIAL DISCUSSION ON EFFECTIVENESS OF CURRENT GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

It had become clear that the approach to delivery involved the same Elected Members and officers and included similar discussions. There were a range of Boards, some formally constituted, some informal that had different powers and resources.

A review would begin to look across the Boards and Panels to rebalance the functions, membership and formality of the Boards.

17/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting of the Committee would be 7 October 2021.

18/21 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING RESOLVED

that under Regulation 4 (2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that in view of the nature of the items of business, that if members of the public were present, exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed to them.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

1. To receive declarations of interest (if any).
2. To confirm the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 December 2020.
3. Verbal Update on East Midlands Global Gateway