

FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

16th December 2021

Overview of Regional Development

(1) Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview to the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity (D2JC) on a number of matters that are being progressed at regional level.

(2) Discussion / Decision Required by the D2JC

2.1 The D2JC is requested to:

- i) **Note the summary presented below – including the recent call for projects by the Derby and Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)**
- ii) **Consider the presentation by Midlands Engine (to be shared at the meeting) regarding the opportunities presented by the Government’s Gigahub proposals and strategic corridors work.**

(3) Update: LEP Funding

- 3.1 The D2N2 LEP has launched a £6.5m grant fund to deliver a range of capital projects in the low carbon sector across D2N2. The call supports national and sub regional policy including Government’s “*Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener*” and the “*The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution*”. Both of which set out ambitious targets for carbon reduction and incentivising investment in both the public and private sector in to Green and carbon saving projects.

3.2 The D2N2 Low Carbon Growth Fund will support low carbon capital projects to create a pipeline of investable propositions that can be match funded to help the region meet challenges around high carbon dioxide output and unclean industrial practices.

3.3 The following criteria are confirmed:

- Successful projects must identify new and innovative ideas and must be able to clearly demonstrate current or future carbon reduction, including carbon sequestration.
- Grant funding will be capped at £1.5 million per project to ensure the monies can be invested in as many projects as possible.
- Projects must demonstrate match funding of up to 50% and be able to start delivery in the 2022/23 financial year.
- No completion deadlines have been published.

3.4 The following timelines are confirmed:

- Expression of interest documentation publicised, and consultation process opened – **1st December 2021**
- Consultation for project sponsors to be closed – **12th January 2022**
- Submission deadline for all bids – **28th January 2022**
- Scoring process finalised – **11th February 2022**
- Projects informed of outcomes – **14th February 2022**

4. Update: Midlands Connect

4.1 The focus of Midlands Connect is framed around six areas of activity, all of which are set within the context of levelling up:

- Powering our net zero future
- Investing in transport for growth
- Extending our global reach
- Accelerating digital connectivity
- Evidence and intelligence
- Pioneering in health and life sciences

4.2 Two key projects are being taken forward at the moment and Midlands Connect is seeking support and input from local leaders:

- i) Project Gigabit: £5bn government infrastructure project to drive better digital connectivity. The East Midlands has been approached by BDUK to lead a regional gigabit project (the first of its kind). BDUK is specifically seeking delivery capabilities to:
- ii) Strategic Economic Corridors – specifically the A50/500 – for which £540,000 been allocated from across Government departments

(DLUHC, DfT) and Midlands Connect to focus on transport, green growth, digital and internationalisation

4.3 Roger Mendonca from Midlands Connect will attend the D2 Joint Committee to outline the proposals and opportunities for local authorities

5. Recommendations

5.1 The D2 Joint Committee is asked to note the above announcements and opportunities and discuss the most appropriate response for local authorities.