

MINUTES of a meeting of the **D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY** held on 03 March 2022 at County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AG.

PRESENT

Councillor G Purdy taken over from Councillor B Lewis at 9:15 am
(in the Chair)

<u>Amber Valley Borough Council</u>	<u>Derbyshire Dales District Council</u>
Councillor T Harper	Councillor G Purdy
<u>Chesterfield Borough Council</u>	<u>Erewash Borough Council</u>
Councillor T Gilby	Councillor C Hart
<u>Derby City Council</u>	<u>High Peak Borough Council</u>
Councillor C Poulter	Councillor A McKeown
<u>Derbyshire County Council</u>	<u>North East Derbyshire District Council</u>
Councillor B Lewis	Councillor J Kenyon

Also in Attendance –

Bolsover District Borough Council – G Galloway
Derby City Council – D Fletcher
D2N2 LEP – W Morlidge
Derbyshire County Council – E Alexander and J Battye
Derbyshire Dales District Council – P Wilson
North East Derbyshire District Council – L Hickin

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of H Bowen (Chesterfield Borough Council), Councillor K Buttery (Amber Valley Borough Council), Councillor G Callingham (North East Derbyshire Council), A Dale (North East Derbyshire District Council), Councillor S Fritchley (Bolsover District Council), and Councillor R Horsley (Chairman of the DEP).

01/22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were no declarations of interest.

02/22 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

03/22 **D2N2 ROUND UP** An update had been given to the Committee by W Morlidge. The D2N2 LEP had been recruiting for a permanent Chief Executive as well as having vacancies for three business board members. Their priorities had included employment, skills and inclusion.

There had been an uncertainty of the role LEP's would hold in the Levelling Up White Paper; noted that the focus was on economy, skills and health which was welcomed. It was also recognised the LEP would need work with D2 and N2 authorities as county deal work progressed regarding their future role.

There had been a specific issue within the NHS and their future skills needs. It had been learnt during the pandemic that traditional nursing was not flexible enough and the NHS had been interested in how to modernise this role. Discussions were taking place with the NHS and it was agreed that a presentation to the committee on issues regarding skills and employment routes into the NHS would be a good future topic. It was agreed that W Morlidge and J Battye would liaise on appropriate timing.

An update was provided on HS2 and the recent discussions around the Integrated Rail Plan. The fundamental change in the proposals affecting HS2 East was noted and specifically, the new HS2 station at East Midlands Parkway. Derbyshire and proposals for Midland Mainline electrification. Various letters and representations had been made to the Transport Select Committee, as well as Secretary of State for Transport; a ministerial visit was planned for later in April/early May. The bid for the Great British Railway headquarters to be based in Derby was ongoing and support would be needed from leaders.

04/22 **LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER AND COUNTY DEALS**

The long awaited Levelling Up White Paper had been published on 2 February 2022. The document outlined the Government's plans to transform the UK by spreading opportunity and prosperity to all. It focused on twelve national levelling up missions to be achieved by 2030. Proposals sought to shift Government focus and resources to Britain's left behind communities. This would bring together a number of policy ambitions into a single programme; a mixture of previous and new announcements, promises and intents.

Nine county areas had been invited to develop County Deals with an aim to "agree a number of these" by Autumn 2022, Derbyshire and Derby had been included as one of these areas. There was a new devolution framework designed to create a set of clear and consistent devolution pathways for places. This would enable areas to widen and deepen their devolved powers subject to meeting a number of pre-conditions.

It was noted the White Paper contained many other proposals about ambitions to level up the UK. The following announcements were of specific interest:

- Local Transport – Bus Transformation – Government proposals to fund improvements to transport connectivity in areas that needed it – bus improvements in Derbyshire outlined
- Education Investment Areas – Targeted investment and action to support 55 identified “cold spots” where school outcomes were weakest – included Derbyshire and Derby
- British Business Bank Regional Investment Funds – Pledge to extend geographical reach of partnership model. £1.6 bn identified of which £400m for Midlands Engine Investment Fund

The implications on Derbyshire and Derby were outlined within the presentation. Further discussions would take place on the streamlined working and the joint vision at the April meeting of the Committee.

05/22 RETAINED BUSINESS RATE – PROGRESS UPDATE

Previous updates to the D2 Joint Committee had reported that approximately £8.6m (30% of the total business rate pool) had been set aside to support a programme of grant schemes enabling economic growth across the County.

There were three grant strands within the economic growth programme, all of which were geared towards supporting projects on an ‘invest to generate’ basis that otherwise might struggle to secure funding, either at all, or within an appropriate timescale. An objective of the programme was to demonstrate a positive impact of targeted investment in securing business rate uplift in future years.

It was agreed that at the outset of the programme, 75% of the available funding could be committed, with the remainder 25% pending confirmation of business rate receipts at year end.

Strand 1 (Business Support) was administered by Derby City Council through the Derbyshire Enterprise Growth Programme. Strand 2 (Enabling Future Delivery) and Strand 3 (Delivering Economic Impact) were being managed by Derbyshire County Council.

The report provided the Committee with an update on the three strands and progress. The question had been put to the Committee on how left over monies were to be spent. Committee members were to repond with suggestions.

RESOLVED to (1) agree the project change requests for Strands 2 and 3 outlined in paragraph 3.5 of the report for the projects listed; (2) note the strong progress of the Vision Derbyshire Business Start Up Project; (3) consider the broad outline of options for use of the remaining funding, and request officers return to the Joint Committee with firm proposals; and (4) agree small amendments could be made in the constitution.

06/22 EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

A progress update had been given to the Committee. £2m had been secured from the Community Renewal Fund. Hospitality Employers had chartered with Marketing Peak District. The Youth Hub in Chesterfield had been launched with Virtual Hub to be launched in March 2022. The Green Entrepreneurs Scholarship fund launched. As well as the Adult Careers Service supporting 1448 people to look for work, progressing 208 to learning, and 242 to employment.

There had been 35 events to date of the Festival of Business, with 2718 attendees representing 515 organisations / businesses. As well as the launch of a Careers Hubs and online portal taking place.

To date this financial year, 66 apprentices from 30 different employers across Derbyshire had been supported via the transfer of Apprenticeship Levy. The total since the programme started was 163 apprentices, from 95 different employers. The total value of funds committed to support this was £1,101,610.

The priorities and future work had been outlined within the presentation.

07/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on 5 May 2022.

08/22 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. Freeport