

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES (LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP)**

11 June 2020

PRESENT

Councillor T Kemp (in the Chair)

Working Group Members

Cllr N Barker	Derbyshire County Council,
Cllr J Boulton	Derbyshire County Council,
Cllr B Bingham,	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Peter Innes	Chesterfield Borough Council
Cllr C Moesby	Derbyshire County Council.
Cllr J. Shepard	Bassetlaw District Council
Cllr C Short	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr J Twigg,	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr M Wall	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr G Wharmby	Derbyshire County Council.

Also in Attendance

Sajeeda Rose	Chief Executive D2N2
Tom Goshawk	Head of Capital Programmes
Sarah Wainwright	Accountable Body
Natalie Gasson	Head of Operations D2N2
Roz Savage	Improvement and Scrutiny Officer

1/20	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr S Longford Nottingham City County Council.	
2/20	<u>Declarations of interest</u> None	
3/20	<u>D2N2 Programme Delivery</u> The LEP officers briefed Members regarding the current challenges on the ‘delivery’ of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) programme The 2020/21 Financial Year was the final year of the 6-year LGF programme, all funding for the entirety of the programme would have to be spent by 31 st March 2021.	

Lockdown conditions from the Covid pandemic had initially halted progress on several projects but on-site work had now resumed. However, for some projects social distancing and supply chain issues had created additional cost and time pressures. Projects which were near completion and had mainly indoor work left to be completed had been hardest hit. The LEP was working closely with projects to look at what flexibilities would be possible and would review costs across the entire programme when a full assessment could be conducted

Most projects that required finally approval had continued to progress and some had been able to submit full business cases and come forward for approval. One project has been withdrawn from the programme as the Local Authority promoter did not want to enter into any additional borrowing in the current climate to fund the project. Two projects from the pipeline had been identified as potentially being able to be brought forward to address the £710k underspend.

During the discussion that followed Members:

- Congratulated the LEP team for the “Delivery” rating moving from “Requires improvement” to “Good”
- Commented on the efficiency and professionalism of Investment Board meeting held in March 2019
- Enquired what funding arrangements would be in place after March 2021. Sajeeda Rose advised that there were many factors that would impact on the future funding arrangements including Brexit, devolution, Covid-19, and the content of the Autumn Budget Statement. That said in the short term (based on speculation rather than firm guidance) she anticipated that there would be an 18-month stimulus to fund projects that can be delivered in a quick and responsive manner.
- Commented on the good outcomes for jobs and learners.
- Expressed concern at the significant target shortfall for homes and asked what is being done to address this.
Sajeeda Rose advised that one scheme in particular has impacted on the delivery of homes. The Newark scheme was due to deliver 3500 homes on completion of the southern link road. The cost of delivering the link road has risen significantly so the scheme has been delayed whilst steps are taken to resolve the funding gap. Consequently, until the link road is in place only 1499 homes can be delivered, and construction of the remaining homes will be delayed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked what is currently known about how Covid-19 will impact on the Jobs delivered through the programme. LEP officers advise that currently the job outcomes were on tract and that a review of outcomes would be conducted next quarter. • Enquired about the LEP’s role in the “Future High Streets Fund” and the “Town Deal”. Sajeeda Rose advised that the LEP works in an advisory role supporting districts so that bids are aligned, complement each other and consider common opportunities. In the light of Covid-19, it is anticipated that there will be discussions regarding the future challenges and opportunities for high streets. 	
4/20	<p><u>Next Steps – Member Discussion</u></p> <p>Members indicated that they wished to maintain a role in scrutinising programme delivery and noted that a mid-term evaluation was to be conducted and considered by the investment board in August. However, they were mindful of the impacts of Covid-19 on the economy and that the Local Growth Fund Programme would be ending in March 2021. Therefore, Members indicated that at the next meeting of the working group they would like to focus on the LEP’s strategy for economic recovery.</p>	<p>RS to invite the LEP’s Strategy lead to the next working group meeting</p>