

MINUTES of a meeting of the **D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY** held on 4 March 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT

Councillor B Lewis
(in the Chair)

<u>Amber Valley Borough Council</u>	<u>Erewash Borough Council</u>
Councillor C Emmas – Williams	Councillor C A Hart
<u>Chesterfield Borough Council</u>	<u>High Peak Borough Council</u>
Councillor T Gilby	Councillor A McKeown
<u>Derby City Council</u>	<u>South Derbyshire District Council</u>
Councillor C Poulter	Councillor M Ford
<u>Derbyshire County Council</u>	
Councillor B Lewis	

Also in Attendance –

Bolsover District Council – G Galloway and L Hickin.

Chesterfield Borough Council – H Bowen.

D2N2 LEP – S Rose.

Derby City Council – G O’Donovan.

Derbyshire County Council – E Alexander, D Arnold, J Battye, T Gregory and A Westray-Chapman.

Erewash Borough Council – J Jaroszek.

East Midlands Councils/Transport for the Midlands - A Pritchard.

North East Derbyshire District Council – G Callingham.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor A Dale (North East Derbyshire District Council)

01/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were no declarations of interest.

02/21 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 December 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

03/21 MIDLANDS CONNECT/TRANSPORT FOR THE EAST

MIDLANDS: UPDATE The pending Integrated Rail Plan was of huge import and its implications had been key to the Midlands Connect growth strategy and the focus of investment and activity going forward. There had been an indication that the Plan would be published on 3 March, 2021 but this had not transpired and was now likely to be published either before the local authority purdah period or before the Summer recess.

It was understood that all the necessary technical work had been done to support the finalisation of the Plan but it had not yet been considered by ministers or senior officials. Those discussions were now taking place and a lot of work had been undertaken by local authorities impacted by the Eastern Leg to influence the outcome of the Plan, specifically in response to the recent report of the National Infrastructure Commission. Councillors Cutts and Gilby, along with Councillor Blakin at Leeds, had taken a lead role in making the case to Government and involved significant MP engagement and social media activity focused on MPs and key decision makers.

The key financial challenges being faced on the Eastern Leg were still prominent. The NIC report had made it clear that the total cost of proposals on the rail network were in excess of the remaining available budget and therefore choices would have to be made. The priorities of the East Midlands would be to ensure the delivery of the hub station at Toton, connectivity to Chesterfield and the Staveley Infrastructure Maintenance Depot, all of which were core to the East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy and on which collective aspirations had been based for the last 5 or 10 years.

In terms of the wider Midlands Connect work programme, a lot of work had been ongoing with the strategy refresh. This refresh had been dependant on the Integrated Rail Plan but also the Government's decarbonisation strategy for transport which was due out shortly. Some of the priorities and policies within the strategy would have a material impact on the focus and shape of the Midlands Connect strategy going forward.

The Government has made available £5m to Midlands Connect for the next financial year. This will enable the current work programme to continue, planned activities to progress and research to be taken forward. Midlands Connect will be going into a spending review later this year to try and secure a longer, multi-year settlement.

04/21 D2N2 LEP UPDATE An announcement was made on 3 March, 2021 that Derbyshire had been successfully shortlisted as Freeport area, one of eight in the country. The Humber had also been successful and provided an opportunity to make the most of the East Midlands connectivity offer between the airport and seaport port. A compelling case had been put forward in the bid, as well as a large amount of support for the bid from the East Midlands MPs and it was noted that Government was increasingly looking to local MPs to be advocates and the champions for local priorities.

The first ask from Government was that within the next two to four weeks, every freeport area would need to reconfirm governance arrangements, including Board membership. This would then trigger Government releasing capacity money to develop the outline and full business cases by Autumn to access the wider £175m available for all 8 freeports.

Government was providing a procurement framework contracts as well as setting up a network of working groups to support development of the 8 freeports. The critical work now was to put effort and energy into addressing all of the challenges and issues to submit the required documents to Government.

The Levelling Up and Community Renewal funds had been launched on 03 March 2021 as part of the Chancellor's budget and further guidance would be expected in coming weeks. Although only one funding round had been announced (18th June) it was expected that subsequent rounds would be available.

The expectation was that there would be one bid per MP constituency and that where there were competing bids, MPs would be involved in selecting priorities. Counties could submit Levelling Up bids for transport projects, given their role as transport and highway authority. Although the LUF was open the whole of Derbyshire, priority areas had been identified by Government.

05/21 **DERBYSHIRE RECOVERY STRATEGY UPDATE** The Economic Recovery Strategy had been finalised and associated action plans developed; much partnership work has taken place and implementation of priority actions is well underway.

Capital projects in particular have progressed, including the safe and active travel scheme which includes a new cycle route in Chesterfield due to go to consultation on 25 March, 2021. A programme of work was being developed for rural mobility hubs as well as progressing demonstrator projects for hydrogen and rural mobility.

Derby City provided an update on business grant schemes that had been provided to keep businesses going during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the last three months, £15m in direct grants and support had been paid across around 5,000 grant payments. £7.4m had been provided from DAYS for the additional restrictions grants. It had been estimated there would be £4m remaining after paying the short term survival grants. This money must be spent by March 2022 and partners on the economic steering group would be engaged on what the rest of the funding should be used for. Other smaller pots were being made available to support a range of businesses.

The Ascent scale-up programme had been a significant investment from the City Council supported by £5m of core funding. This programme was to support the businesses with highest potential in Derby and there were around 50 that would receive the support over a two year period. The employment and

training portal was being developed; it was key that an effective technology led portal was in place to assist those who were seeking new employment. This would be procured in the next few months.

A High Street Task Force had been established in relation to the Market Town Renewal and was due to meet on 11 March 2021 to assess the implications of the changes to lifestyle, business, premises and expectations of town centres moving forward. There were also other factors to consider such as low carbon/alternative energy generation as well as aligning interventions with current activity. There were a number of recovery strategy interventions that the task force had already started to deliver including the role out of Shopappy before Christmas.

It was noted that the funding streams announced in the Budget primarily enabled Derbyshire to do the work outlined in the Recovery Strategy.

06/21 PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A NON-STATUTORY STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE The Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) was being progressed to complement the ongoing work being undertaken by D2 partners on climate change and address the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis through the D2 Economic Recovery Board.

Additionally, through the Vision Derbyshire programme, a Climate Change and Planning Policy Work Theme was being progressed, sponsored by Councillor Gary Purdy and Julian Townsend. This Vision Derbyshire work would dovetail with the SPF and provide an important context and agreed principles for addressing the impacts of climate change through the planning process.

Original agreement to create the SPF was provided at the D2JC meeting in June 2019. The report highlighted that the primary justification for preparation of the Framework was to address the high priority placed on strategic planning and strategic plan making by Government set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and to help partners fulfil their obligations under the 'Duty to Cooperate' and Localism Act 2011 for joint working on cross boundary strategic planning matters. It also confirmed the SPF would cover the whole of the D2 area, including the Peak District National Park Authority, and that the Joint Committee would provide the strategic oversight and governance for development and delivery of the SPF.

Since June 2019, various reports and updates had been shared with the D2 Chief Executives' Group and the D2JC outlining progress of work on the Framework, key issues and securing endorsement for next steps. This included consideration of implications of the Government's Planning White Paper which set out proposals for major reform to the planning system but was silent on strategic planning and strategic plan making and proposed to abolish the Duty to Cooperate. Draft Terms of Reference had also been considered setting out

details of key roles and responsibilities for the Joint Committee in providing strategic oversight and governance for delivery of the SPF.

Through discussion with the Chief Executives it had been agreed there was an important role for the SPF in the reformed planning system to set out a shared statement of key, strategic objectives and priorities for all partners in how the county and city would grow in the future, providing an important context for the preparation of future local plans by partners. The draft ToR had also endorsed for presentation to the D2JC, subject to inclusion of further details of how preparation of the Framework would be resourced.

In addition to the above, regular progress reports on the SPF had been provided at a number of Derbyshire-wide and Housing Market Area (HMA) based officer planning policy and development management groups. Two special meetings on the SPF had also organised on 10th December 2020 and 11th February 2021 for officers of all the D2 partners to discuss the Framework in more detail. Discussions at these groups had highlighted a desire by the majority of partners to report the SPF to their respective members on planning committees or planning boards, particularly to set out the background of the need to prepare the Framework; highlight its key purpose and how the Framework aligned with their Local Plans; its potential resource implications; and to seek members' endorsement to progress further joint working to deliver the Framework.

Partners had also agreed that future work streams to deliver key elements of the Framework should be taken forward based on established HMA officer working groups facilitated and coordinated by the County Council and that emerging HMA growth strategies in the preparation of future Local Plan Reviews should be aligned with, and reflected in, the Framework.

Since January 2020, a number of significant work streams had been undertaken by the D2 partners to progress the Framework, details of which had been set out within the report.

Although Committee members had agreed the resolutions, a number of Leaders wished to have further discussions with their planning colleagues to gain further information about the framework.

RESOLVED to (1) note the progress of further joint working by the D2 partners to deliver a non-statutory Strategic Planning Framework for Derby and Derbyshire as set out in the report; (2) consider and agree a Draft Terms of Reference for the D2 Joint Committee setting out its key roles and responsibilities for providing strategic oversight and governance for the delivery of the Strategic Planning Framework; (3) consider and agree the Statement of Common Ground that had been developed to underpin development of the Framework and set out key principles for joint working to deliver it; and (4) endorse the opportunity for the D2 partners to report the SPF to their respective members on planning committees or planning boards to seek their members' formal endorsement to progress further joint working to deliver the Framework.

07/21 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** The next meeting of the Committee would be to be set for the year April 2021 – March 2022.

08/21 **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 03 December 2020.

09/21 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2020 be confirmed as a correct record (contains exempt information).