

# **THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2016 AT 9.30 AM AT THE SUMMIT CENTRE, KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

(A denotes absent)

Chairman – Councillor Alan Rhodes – Nottinghamshire County Council  
Vice- Chairman – Councillor Neil Clarke MBE – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Mayor Kate Allsop – Mansfield District Council  
Councillor Roger Blaney – Newark and Sherwood District Council  
Councillor Cheryl Butler – Ashfield District Council  
Councillor Alan Clark – Nottingham City Council (substitute for Cllr Jon Collins)  
Councillor John Clarke – Gedling Borough Council  
Councillor Jon Collins – Nottingham City Council A  
Councillor Richard Jackson – Broxtowe Borough Council  
Councillor Joanna White – Bassetlaw District Council

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

David Armiger – Dir. of Regen. & Neighbourhoods, Bassetlaw District Council  
Carol Cooper-Smith – Interim Service Dir. – Economy, Ashfield District Council  
Ian Curryer – Chief Executive, Nottingham City Council  
Keith Ford – Nottinghamshire County Council  
Allen Graham – Chief Executive, Rushcliffe Borough Council  
Tim Gregory – Nottinghamshire County Council  
Ruth Hyde – Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council  
Matt Lockley – Nottinghamshire County Council  
Anthony May – Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Andrew Muter – Chief Executive, Newark & Sherwood District Council  
David Ralph – Chief Executive, D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership  
John Robinson – Chief Executive, Gedling Borough Council  
James Schrodell – Nottingham City Council  
Bev Smith – Mansfield District Council  
Stuart Turner, Nottinghamshire County Council

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jon Collins (Leader, Nottingham City Council), Robert Mitchell (Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council) and Neil Taylor (Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council).

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

### **4. OUTLINE HS2 GROWTH STRATEGY**

David Ralph introduced the report which gave an update on the development of the HS2 Growth Strategy related to the proposed East Midlands Hub station at Toton. The Interim Submission would also be considered by the East Midlands HS2 Strategic Board in September 2016.

The electrification of the Midlands Mainline was understood to remain part of the HS2 plans. During a recent meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council, Network Rail had stated that they intended to complete the electrification by 2023, with the £9m funding gap for the Market Harborough changes now resolved. At a recent Midlands Connect Board, Chris Grady, the Secretary of State, had underlined the ongoing commitment to HS2 and he felt that electrification was an integral part of that.

The Midland Mainline franchise was due for renewal in 2018 with the process commencing in Autumn 2017. Councils needed to use their influence to underline the importance of electrification and modern rolling stock in any discussions with potential bidders. It would also be helpful to circulate to Members the strategy that was developed at a previous East Midlands Councils workshop so that this could be shared with bidders in discussions.

With regard to the involvement of Leicestershire and Leicester Council (L2), they continued to be members of the HS2 Programme Board and were committed to funding HS2. They were likely to be involved in the launch of the Interim Growth Strategy.

Funding remained the big challenge and lessons needed to be learnt from the similar developments in Birmingham which were, in effect, five years ahead of the East Midlands. The £5bn costs there had been met through a number of sources, namely the Devolution Deal, local contributions (Gain Share and Local Growth Fund) and a potential mayoral precept. Further consideration was needed as to how best to secure the £2.5bn required for the East Midlands.

### **RESOLVED 2016/018**

- 1) That the contents of the report and the work that was taking place to develop the HS2 Outline Growth Strategy be noted.
- 2) That Committee Members consider attending the Futures Workshop being held on 17 August 2016.

## **5. GROWTH DEAL 3 SUBMISSION**

David Ralph introduced the report which sought Member support for the submission of the D2N2 Growth Deal 3 proposal to Government.

The outcomes of the Ministerial Challenge session held on 19 July, attended by Councillor Alan Rhodes, Ian Morgan and David Ralph, had been largely positive. The meeting was chaired by a senior civil servant in the Minister's absence. Further prioritisation of schemes had not been requested at this stage and therefore the bid would be submitted in its entirety with an announcement made in the Autumn Statement.

Feedback from the session included:-

- There was a need to 'tell the story' better, emphasising the role of the Local Enterprise Partnership and demonstrating the outcomes that would be achieved by the investment requested.
- The fact that Nottingham and Derby were currently showing as being in the worst areas in England on clean air measures needed to be addressed. Nottingham City Council's activities to address this needed to be highlighted.
- A better explanation of the thinking behind the development of the 4 key themes of Housing & Regeneration, Town & City Centre Renewal, Innovation-Led Growth and Employment & Skills was also needed.

With regard to the clean air issue, further discussions were needed with Nottingham City Council officers to capture the relevant factors within the submission. Councillor Alan Clark highlighted the limited number of monitoring points and the fact that the issues related to anticipated problems in future years, and not in the City Centre. Also national growth trends had been used rather than local ones. Ian Curryer added that the data had been captured during the tram construction period and therefore there had been a lot more stationary traffic. The next data capture was likely to see an improvement, although the issues were not all about traffic.

Ian Curryer offered to submit a report to a future meeting about the potential for developing a more joined-up approach to taxi licensing through a general framework of principles. A possible points system, as operated by Leicestershire and Leicester, was being explored by Nottingham and Derby. Widening any such scheme to include other taxi licensing authorities would increase its potential benefits. Safeguarding elements would also be considered (with reference to the work previously undertaken by Rushcliffe Borough Council) along with other issues relating to drivers' skills, knowledge of an area, behaviour, and impact upon clean air standards. Members agreed that it would be helpful for such a report to come to a future meeting.

With regard to any further prioritisation of schemes within the submission, Ruth Hyde requested that a clear and transparent criteria be developed to enable the Chief Executives group to undertake such work appropriately.

## **RESOLVED 2016/019**

That the submission of the D2N2 Growth Deal 3 proposal to government on 28 July 2016 be endorsed and clear and transparent criteria be developed for any further prioritisation of schemes.

## **6. SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY CONSULTATION**

Anthony May introduced the report which updated the Committee on the consultation process and encouraged Nottinghamshire councils to respond as appropriate. Various consultation events were planned ahead of the closing date of 12 August 2016. Nottinghamshire County Council was currently finalising its response, following consideration by its Policy Committee on 13 July 2016. Bassetlaw, Sheffield and Chesterfield were also likely to submit responses.

Councillor Joanna White explained the reasoning behind Bassetlaw's decision to seek constituent membership of the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority (SCR CA) in terms of Bassetlaw residents' strong economic ties with the region through employment and further education. She highlighted the ongoing positive and professional relationship with Nottinghamshire County Council throughout the consultation process and these views were echoed by David Armiger. Members welcomed the explanation for Bassetlaw's decision and recognised that all Councils were seeking the best outcomes for their residents.

Councillor Alan Rhodes underlined Nottinghamshire County Council's position that the request did not meet the statutory test, with particular concerns around highways; transport provision (especially rural transport); community identity (especially with regard to the Eastern part of Bassetlaw); and governance (with regard to the County Council and Bassetlaw only having one vote each whilst full members would receive two votes).

Councillor Roger Blaney highlighted Newark & Sherwood District Council's intention to respond to the consultation in terms of the potential implications for Nottinghamshire, the Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect and devolution plans. Councillor Neil Clarke underlined that Rushcliffe Borough Council's response was likely to include some similar concerns.

Anthony May clarified the legal aspects and explained that a council could only be a constituent member of one Combined Authority. Under the current legislation, councils could only be a member of one sub-regional transport body. However, the Department of Communities and Local Government had stated that this was a drafting issue with the legislation which would be amended to enable principal authorities to be members of more than one transport authority, although the logistical issues around that would remain (as underlined in Nottinghamshire County Council's consultation response).

Councillor Richard Jackson queried the possibility of the Committee submitting a neutral response to the consultation.

**RESOLVED 2016/020**

That the formal consultation on the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority proposals be noted and individual member councils consider submitting their own response to the consultation.

**7. N2 BUSINESS RATES POOL – VERBAL UPDATE**

Anthony May gave a verbal update on this issue, highlighting the Government's current consultation on Business Rates Retention and Fairer Funding. Financial officers' advice was to continue the current arrangements until further guidance was received from Government. With regard to transition arrangements, these would need clarifying at an earlier point should Bassetlaw become a constituent member of the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority.

During discussions, the following points were raised:-

- The District Councils Network and the County Council Network were working together to try and submit a joint proposal in response to the Business Rates Retention consultation.
- It was clarified that funding was currently being deployed in accordance with the decisions of the Committee of 20 May 2016. With regard to the Business Rates Pool and access to funding for feasibility studies, work was underway to enable bids to be made to this fund from September 2016. The importance of revisiting these resolutions in line with any future changes in the governance process was underlined.

**RESOLVED 2016/021**

That the contents of the verbal update be noted.

**8. WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED 2016/022**

To note the work programme with the inclusion of the following item agreed earlier in the agenda:-

- Report on the potential for a more joined-up approach to taxi licensing – to a future meeting (date to be confirmed).

The meeting closed at 10.52 am

**CHAIRMAN**