

Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, 06 May 2014 at 14:00

County Hall, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

AGENDA

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| 1 | Minutes of the last meeting held on 1 April 2014 | 3 - 6 |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
| 4 | D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan and Implications for Nottinghamshire | 7 - 12 |
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| 7 | Worksop Turbine Innovation Centre - Withdrawal of Bassetlaw District Council from Deed of Agreement | 23 - 26 |
| 8 | Consultation Response - Draft ESF Operational Programme For England | 27 - 40 |
| 9 | Work Programme | 41 - 44 |

Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Martin Gately (Tel. 0115 977 2826) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

minutes

Meeting	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Date	1 April 2014 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

Diana Meale (Chairman)
Roy Allan (Vice-Chairman)

Ian Campbell
Michael Payne
John Knight
Rachel Madden

John Ogle
Keith Walker
Gordon Wheeler

A Alan Rhodes (Ex-Officio)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mr M Chivers – Alliance Boots

A Ms M Ulyatt (Federation of Small Businesses)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Martin Gately	-	Policy Planning and Corporate Services
Sam Jones	-	“
Matt Lockley	-	“
Celia Morris	-	“
Nicola McCoy-Brown	-	“
James Mann	-	“

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 March 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following changes of membership for this meeting were noted: Councillor Rachel Madden replaces Councillor Jason Zadrozny for this meeting only.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PRESENTATION – BUSINESS START-UP SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Joanna Clarke, Deputy Chief Executive of NBV Enterprise Solutions explained that NBV is a not-for-profit organisation with over 30 years experience in providing business advice and training. From deciding to start a business, through to continuous support for established Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), NBV has a team of accredited Business Advisers and Trainers to support local enterprise activities.

Ms Clarke emphasised that no other council offered global free business support. A wide range of people accessed this service, from former directors of Boots to 18 year olds with a poor academic experience.

In response to questions from Members, Ms Clarke indicated that business start-ups within each district of the county were as follows: Gedling 31, Broxtowe 16, Rushcliffe 23, Newark and Sherwood 16, Bassetlaw 41, Mansfield 31 and Ashfield 30.

Members expressed an interest in visiting some of the businesses.

NBV BUSINESS START-UP SUPPORT CONTRACT

RESOLVED 2014/016

That the report be noted.

BETTER BROADBAND FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – PHASE ONE

RESOLVED 2014/17

That the report noted.

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

RESOLVED 2014/018

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That Economic Development Committee receives a further report on progress with key account relationships in the autumn.

LEADER RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT APPLICATION

RESOLVED 2014/019

That the report be noted.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE SUBMITTED UNDER THE URGENCY PROCEDURE: COUNTY ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP INQUIRY

RESOLVED 2014/020

That the consultation response to the County All Party Parliamentary Group inquiry into the role of counties in economic growth be noted.

A PLACE MARKETING ORGANISATION FOR NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

RESOLVED 2014/021

- a) That agreement in principle for the creation of a Place Marketing Organisation for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire be given.
- b) That more detailed proposals on the vision, operating model and legal status of a Place Marketing Organisation for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire be considered at a future meeting.
- c) That a £10,000 contribution towards project management support for the establishment of a PMO be approved.
- d) That a contribution of £20,000 in 2014/15 towards inward investment activity to be undertaken by Invest in Nottingham be approved.

WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2014/022

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 2:50 pm.

CHAIR

6th May 2014**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY****D2N2 STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN AND IMPLICATIONS FOR
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Members on the submission of the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan and the next steps in terms of securing Local Growth Fund resources for Nottinghamshire. In addition, the report outlines a final consultation response from the County Council that was submitted to D2N2 under the urgency procedures due to consultation deadlines.

Information and advice

2. In July 2013, the Government tasked Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) with drawing up Strategic Economic Plans which would outline investment priorities in LEP areas and form the basis of Local Growth Deals. Growth Deals will confirm capital investment resources to LEP areas. The Government sees this process as competitive across England (i.e. resources will not be allocated by formula) and has encouraged LEPs to submit ambitious proposals for growth, with a particular focus on deliverability in 2015-16 and 2016-17, when the capital funds will start to flow through the LEPs.
3. The funds to support Local Growth Deals come from a variety of sources, most of which have traditionally been devolved to local authorities. In brief, these are:
 - Local Authority Transport Majors
 - Local Sustainable Transport Fund
 - Integrated Transport Block
 - Further Education Capital
 - European Social Fund match (employment and skills – revenue)

Initial proposals to include New Homes Bonus within the Local Growth Deal were dropped after significant lobbying from borough and district councils.

4. The Government expects Strategic Economic Plans to focus on prioritising investment in housing, infrastructure and skills. There is also an expectation that local resources will be aligned or pooled around the priorities as identified in the Strategic Economic Plans. To this end, and to support better engagement with public sector partners in the D2N2 LEP, an Economic

Prosperity Committee for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire was established in February 2014 (report to Full Council, January 2014 relates).

5. The first draft of the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan was submitted to Government on 18th December 2013. Feedback followed in January 2014, urging D2N2 to be more ambitious but also to be much more specific in terms of capital investment priorities in the first two years of the plan (2015-17). A process was then established by D2N2 and through its Local Transport Board to draw up robust business cases for capital investment (predominantly infrastructure related) in 2015-16 and 2016-17. County Council officers and Members have been engaged throughout the process via both internal working groups and the LEP's Officer Group, Board and Local Transport Board meetings.
6. More than 100 priority infrastructure proposals were submitted as part of this process. Towards the latter end of the process, the Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee met to confirm its priority list. This was followed by a meeting of the D2N2 Board on 25th March which resulted in the final version of the Strategic Economic Plan being agreed prior to the submission deadline of 31st March.
7. Nottinghamshire County Council submitted a final response on the Strategic Economic Plan on 24th March 2014, having been invited to do so through the LEP Officer Group. Given the deadline for submission of the response, it was signed off through the provisions for urgent decisions by the Chief Executive (Option C, Part C of the Constitution – decision by the Chief Executive).
8. In brief, the response focussed on:
 - The continued city bias in terms of the narrative and contextual information provided to underline opportunities in the D2N2 economy. The response repeated earlier requests for capital investment programmes ring-fenced for the two cities to be removed
 - The lack of proposed action around tackling deprivation and disadvantage
 - Potential confusion in terms of the various different spatial groupings / zones that were referenced in the plan
 - A lack of proposed action on business start-up
 - Query over the extended list of priority sectors, and whether the inclusion of two additional sectors (taking the priority list to eight) would spread resources too thinly
 - Comment on the skills proposals and in particular a request that tackling the engagement of small and medium sized companies with the skills agenda would be critical to future growth

Infrastructure priorities in Nottinghamshire included in the Strategic Economic Plan

9. Significant work was undertaken by officers in the Council's transport and highways and economic development teams to bring together information in support of business cases for a number of priority infrastructure schemes that met with the D2N2 LEP's requirements. Deliverability, value for money and

jobs created were the key assessment criteria. Nottinghamshire fared well in the initial 'cut' and prioritisation exercise undertaken by the consultants Atkins on behalf of the LEP. Subsequent negotiations at the LEP Board resulted in some changes to the priority list. Nottinghamshire projects now included as priorities for 2015-16 and 2016-17 are:

- Newark Southern Link Road
 - Vision University Centre, Mansfield
 - Sherwood Growth Corridor (Mansfield—Ashfield Regeneration Route) / Lindhurst
 - Harworth access improvements
 - A46 Corridor
 - Rolls Royce, Hucknall
 - Nottingham – Lincoln Rail Service Improvements
10. In addition to these projects, contributions towards the broadband 'Superfast Extension Programme' for both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are proposed should there be sufficient Local Growth Deal resources. Existing D2N2 commitments to the Gedling Access Road and A57/A60 improvements are confirmed, alongside cross-cutting priorities such as the electrification of Midland Mainline.
11. Beyond 2016-17, a longer list of potential infrastructure schemes is referenced in the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan. These cover housing and transport infrastructure projects up to 2020.
12. Whilst much of the focus of activity in drafting the Strategic Economic Plan has been on immediately deliverable capital schemes, it does also include significant statements about future investment in skills and employment schemes and business support services. These schemes will largely be delivered through new European funding streams which will flow through the D2N2 LEP from January 2015 and which were subject of a report to this Committee in November 2013.
13. Priority activities for skills and employment include:
- D2N2 Employability Charter – a framework for schools covering employability and enterprise, co-designed by young people and employers. D2N2 to provide an employer link to every secondary school
 - Skills engagement for non-engaged businesses – extended employer engagement service for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) focussed on apprenticeship and traineeship development
 - Sector skills action plans – to drive changes to skills provision and ensure employers have access to the skilled workforce they need

Commissioning specifications for the above and other priorities (i.e. rolling out an apprentice hub model) are being worked up by the D2N2 Skills Commission and the respective Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Skills and Employment Boards.

14. In terms of business growth and business support services, the following key areas of intervention are identified in the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan:
- A D2N2 Growth Hub – simplify the business support landscape and provide a single point of contact for businesses ranging from start-up support to international trade. Bring together support provided through national activity (i.e, UK Trade and Investment, Manufacturing Advisory Service) and more local business support solutions. Likely to be based in Nottingham
 - Portfolio of access to finance solutions – promote and facilitate the availability of a range of business finance solutions, some of which will be supported through European funding streams
 - Sector development plans – including tailored business support services; supply chain development; innovation and the prioritisation of the LEP's capital investment funds

Next steps

15. The D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan was submitted by the Government deadline of 31st March 2014. There will now follow a period of intense negotiation between the D2N2 Board and the Government which will result in the agreement of a Local Growth Deal in July of this year. Alongside the negotiations, project specifications are being drafted and a peer review of infrastructure proposals is taking place to ensure that those projects prioritised in the Strategic Economic Plan are genuinely deliverable in the next two financial years.
16. It is anticipated that D2N2 could secure up to £50 million of capital investment funds in both 2015-16 and 2016-17. Beyond that it is less easy to forecast given the General Election in 2015 and subsequent Comprehensive Spending Review. The D2N2 European funding allocation is estimated to be in the region of £180 million over the period 2014-20. It should be noted, however, that due to delays at the national and European level, EU funds are unlikely to come on stream before April 2015 (which would be aligned with funds secured through the Local Growth Deal).

Reason(s) for Recommendations

17. To update Committee on progress with the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan. In addition, Committee is required to note the use of the urgent decision procedure as outlined in paragraph 7.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described in the report.

Financial implications

19. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, although Committee may wish to note that major transport infrastructure schemes prioritised by the Council may attract investment through the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan. In addition, there will be further opportunities to bid for funds through the Local Growth Deal and EU funding streams once these come on line in 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20. It is recommended that Committee:
- (a) notes progress in terms of the submission of the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan and next steps; and
 - (b) notes the submission under the urgent decision procedure of a response to the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan by the County Council

Report of the Group Manager, Corporate Strategy, Celia Morris

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Matt Lockley, 72446

Constitutional Comments

This report is for noting only.

Financial Comments

This report is for noting only.

Background Papers

Growth Deal Guidance issued July 2013.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224776/13-1056-growth-deals-initial-guidance-for-local-enterprise-partnerships.pdf

Report to Economic Development Committee, 19 November 2013 – Development of the D2N2 EU Funding Strategy 2014-20

Report to Full Council, 16 January 2014 – Establishment of the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee

D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan

http://www.d2n2lep.org/write/Documents/D2N2_SEP_March_31st.pdf

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

ALL

06 May 2014

Agenda Item:

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUSINESS INVESTMENT ZONES (NBIZ)

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Committee on the current position and proposed development of the Nottinghamshire Business Investment Zones initiative (NBIZ), and to seek approval for the allocation of funding from the 2014-15 budget.

Information and Advice

2. The NBIZ concept has been developed with a view to gaining a better understanding of key strategic employment sites across Nottinghamshire and better working relationships with developers and interested parties. The concept aims to recognise and address the barriers that are preventing key sites from coming to the market and subsequently promote the sites within a wider inward investment framework.
3. In developing the concept, the District and Borough Councils within the County have all agreed on the benefits of such an approach and can ensure appropriate local knowledge (largely from planning and related perspectives) is utilised to offer additional insight and intelligence.
4. Collectively, a strategic network of Nottinghamshire Business Investment Zones across the County will have the potential to deliver significant jobs and economic growth. There is scope to exploit:
 - The prioritisation of and integration with related investment in transport and digital infrastructure on a set of potential sites;
 - The development of a prospectus of key employment sites and their promotion through the collaborative relationship with Invest in Nottingham / the to-be-developed Place Marketing arrangements and wider initiatives such as the D2N2 protocol signed with UKTI and emerging business support and business growth activities;
 - Existing and forthcoming funds to support programmes of site development for example via the LEPs' Strategic Economic Plans, their Growing Places Funding and, where appropriate, European Funding. The previous item on this Committee's agenda reflected on the prioritisation of key sites with the D2N2 LEP's SEP. The preparatory work on the NBIZ concept and the established contacts with a number of developers and / or agents has supported this activity and the future development of the NBIZ activity will support the LEP in its considerations going forward;

- Any future considerations for specific sites to be developed as having a possible enterprise zone or related incentive mechanism such as business rates relief;
 - Joint and innovative funding mechanisms through the Councils and partners, incorporating existing funding and new and emerging methods of financing;
 - The potential for further collaborative working with land owners, developers and agents under the umbrella of a Nottinghamshire Employment Land Forum. Early discussions with developers suggest this would be welcomed.
5. Private sector engagement with this concept will be crucial at many levels, in particular at specific sites and at the D2N2 LEP. Early discussions were held on the concept with private sector stakeholders during the development of the Nottinghamshire Growth Plan, while further discussions on the concept have taken place in other arenas.

Work to Date

6. The County Council has worked with Borough and District Council partners to identify a long list of sites which offer ready opportunities for business expansion, economic growth and inward investment. This work was based on parameters agreed with the Borough and District Councils in terms of recognising strategic importance and impact.
7. Each Nottinghamshire District and Borough Council was asked to submit the details of sites which were designated employment land and which they considered to be appropriate for inclusion in the NBIZ portfolio, with details on ownership and current status where known.
8. Currently, the following sites are under initial consideration, each with varied requirements, barriers and potential. This long list may change / be added to following further engagement and before the detailed review is commenced:

District	Name of site
Ash	Rolls Royce, Hucknall
Ash	Castlewood Business Park
Ash	Prologis Park Mansfield (now Summit Park)
Ash / Mans / N&S	MARR / Sherwood Growth Zone (incorporating others referenced in this table)
Bass	Land South of Manton Wood
Bass	South of Worksop Road
Bass	Land East of A57
Bass	Trinity Park Industrial Estate extension land
Bass	Harworth Colliery
Bass	Bawtry Road
Bass	Plumtree Farm extension
Bass	A1 Corridor - North of Markham Moor interchange / land to the south of A567/A1 Markham Moor
Bass / Mans	Welbeck Colliery
Brox	Beeston Business Park
Ged	Gedling Colliery
Ged	Land opposite Teal Close
Ged	Colwick Industrial Estate

Mans	Mansfield Brewery
Mans	Stockwell Gate North
Mans	Lindhurst
Mans	Penniment Farm
Mans	Ransom Woods Business Park
N&S	Land South of Newark, Newark Growth Point
N&S	Fernwood Business Park / Newark Growth Point
Rush	Cotgrave Colliery
Rush	Former RAF Newton
Rush	Chapel Lane Bingham
Rush	Tollerton Airfield

Proposed Next Steps

9. To progress the development of the portfolio of sites, an assessment of the viability of each site is proposed. Specialist consultants will be commissioned to undertake this assessment, which is considered to be the most efficient way of identifying potential blockages, financial viability and market / sector requirements, so that a shortlist of sites can be drawn up. The review will also provide evidence to support future capital funding bids to develop the sites and support an on-going regular review of the state of the employment land market.
10. The NBIZ concept has been welcomed by Borough and District Council partners and they have contributed significantly to its development. Each of the Borough and District Councils has pledged financial support of £2,000 towards the next phase of the work. At the March meeting of this Committee, Members agreed an allocation of £60,000 towards Place Marketing, which included the NBIZ work. It is proposed that £20,000 of this allocation is utilised towards this review, which would make a total resource of £34,000 available (with the Borough and District contributions).
11. It has been agreed that the County Council undertakes the commissioning of this activity. Within corporate procurement procedures, there are existing Framework Agreements in place which can be utilised to secure the most appropriate expertise and provide value for money. If no suitable supplier is found through this process, a full tender process will be undertaken, although this will delay the project by about 8-10 weeks.
12. A full specification will be prepared but the successful consultants will be tasked to provide a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative review incorporating a number of themes, with the priorities being:
 - i. an analysis of the market;
 - ii. a review of supply and demand trends;
 - iii. the extent to which individual sites can deliver jobs growth and best value for money for public investment;
 - iv. individual site financial appraisals;
 - v. known and available funding; and
 - vi. business cases reflecting funding shortfalls

13. The Districts have now been asked to review and prioritise their sites to ensure the most up to date information is available and the most appropriate sites are progressed. Regular meetings will then be held to share information and facilitate an ongoing review. The procurement process is anticipated to be completed by July / early August. Depending on the response and consultants' professional judgement of the task, the review is anticipated to be completed by November / December 2014.
14. The ultimate outcome of the review will be a report providing a short list of priority and secondary sites and a framework to allow partners to regularly review the information on the key sites and continue to make judgements for progression in the future. Information will also be gained to support future external capital funding applications.
15. Finally, it will be noted that the specification for the commission seeks to request that the successful consultant establishes a framework whereby the Council and its partners can refresh the work on an on-going and consistent basis thus affording the partners the opportunity to review trends, changes and developments over time.

Other Options Considered

16. As stated in paragraph 11, there is an option not to use the Framework Agreement and to procure the review through a full tendering exercise. However, Framework Agreements have already been negotiated through a competitive tendering exercise, and can make the procurement process quicker and guarantee previously contracted prices. A full tender could still result in responses from the same consultants as those within the Framework, and there is no guarantee of cost or quality.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. The Committee has previously approved a budget allocation for place marketing, which includes the NBIZ development. A professional review of proposed sites is considered by partners to be the most effective way to progress this project.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

19. The NBIZ project is part of the Place Marketing activity included in the Economic Development Strategy Delivery Plan and the associated budget report agreed by the Committee in March 2014.

RECOMMENDATION/S

20. That the Economic Development Committee:

- a. agrees the NBIZ approach as outlined in the report and
- b. approves funding of £20,000 towards the NBIZ review

Report of the Group Manager, Corporate Strategy, Celia Morris

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Hilary Porter, 72146

Constitutional Comments (NAB 25.04.14)

Economic Development Committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SEM 25/04/14)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

6th May 2014**Agenda Item:****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY****BUSINESS SUPPORT – PROPOSALS FOR 2014/15****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider funding proposals for business support activity in 2014-15 and to provide an update on the performance of the Council's investment in the Funding Circle model.

Background

2. Committee agreed its overall budget and broad headings for initiatives over 2014-15 at its meeting in March 2014. At that meeting, up to £75,000 was allocated towards business support measures and this report offers details of initial proposed spend under this heading.
3. A number of factors have been considered when drawing up these proposals. Firstly, any activity supported by the Council is responsive to need and specifically the needs of Nottinghamshire businesses. The proposals recognise both statistical data and trends and concerns that have been discussed with business support organisations. Importantly, the development of these proposals was influenced by links with businesses directly via Key Accounts and via conversations through the Nottinghamshire Business Engagement Group (NBEG).
4. Secondly, given the changing position on business support nationally and locally and what is a relatively small pot of resources, it is important that any proposed provision reflects existing national and local provision, gaps within the market, seeks to add value and looks to bring forward creative solutions. The proposals within this report have been designed in this context.

Business Start-Up Provision

5. At Committee on 1st April 2014, Members received a report on the progress of the current Business Start-up contract, being delivered by NBV Enterprise Solutions on behalf of the County Council. This was complemented by a presentation by Joanna Clarke from NBV which provided more detail on the delivery of the support, the outcomes to date and some examples of how the programme has impacted positively on new business start-ups across Nottinghamshire.
6. It was agreed at the meeting that the project has so far represented good value for money and is delivering well against the outputs. It was also noted that, after a slow start in March

2013 while the project was being publicised, the project is progressing well, particularly in terms of engaging with people from those areas not in receipt of free business start-up support since the removal of the national offer in November 2011.

7. The programme has now entered the final monitoring stages. Given this positive perspective on the project's performance and with activity coming to an end, it is proposed that Committee approves the allocation of a further £55,000 from the Economic Development budget to continue this project during the 2014/15 financial year. This amount of funding would allow NBV to deliver activity to the end of March 2015 and can be found from within the budgetary allocation.
8. There is provision within the current contract with NBV to extend this agreement and this brings substantive benefits in terms of costs and efficiencies, allowing NBV to capitalise on the marketing activity already delivered, which has led to large numbers of individuals continuing to be engaged. This approach allows for a prime focus on delivery with less of a requirement for building momentum.
9. The proposal would allow the County Council to facilitate blanket coverage of free support across the whole County, which is not dependent on postcode or circumstance. This flexibility is key as via the Council's support, NBV can deploy resources flexibly to any emerging hotspots or areas of concern within the County. This whole-area support is a unique offer and is not replicated in many locations across the country.
10. Indicative targets for the extension of this programme have been discussed, taking into account both the performance to date and the comments received at the Economic Development Committee in April. If approved, an agreement will be developed with NBV based on the following (figures for 2013-14 in brackets):

Duration of extension	1 st July 2014 – 31 st March 2015
Number of individuals engaged	375 [346]
Number of New Business Starts	93 [86]
Ratio	1 business start for every 4 engagements [same as 2013-14]
Cost per business start	£590 [£674]

Funding Circle

11. In March of 2013, Members agreed a pilot partnership with Funding Circle over the course of 2013/14, allocating a total of £45,000 (£40,000 for investment and £5,000 to support PR and direct mail activity) from that year's budget to support Nottinghamshire businesses with an alternative "peer-to-peer" (P2P) route to finance for established business.
12. P2P finance works as a way of supporting direct lending or investment by individuals or organisations to other individuals or businesses, by-passing what has been the more traditional means of lending such as the banks or other mainstream sources of funding. It is a significant growth area in securing access to finance over recent years following the credit crunch of 2008 onwards which has seen a move away from traditional sources because of a lack of available finance and / or a tightening of the approach to credit and the terms and conditions that relate.

13. Due to logistical delays in establishing the Funding Circle approach, activity was not underway fully until July 2013 but it has been operating well since. An end of financial year review offers the following assessment:
- A total of 16 Nottinghamshire companies have secured investment through Funding Circle supported by the Council;
 - The total investment by the Council is just under £24,000, with the value of the total loans requested at £805,000;
 - There are no bad debts in the portfolio at this stage with all loans being re-paid and two loans having been already paid back in full;
 - The companies supported work in a range of sectors including electronics; accountants and financial management; manufacturers (including printers, blinds, specialised furniture); the leisure industries; contract maintenance; IT development and training and a hotel. The Nottinghamshire based borrowers are drawn from across the County;
 - The requirements for loan funding are referenced as being for business expansion (including the purchasing of equipment and working capital); the development of an on-line presence; the expansion into new premises / branches and the development of new markets.
14. The ambition with the Funding Circle relationship was to offer an opportunity for the County's businesses to secure finance quickly, effectively and at very competitive rates through alternative routes. The co-investment approach has minimised exposure to risk and is securing returns on investment allowing for resources to be re-cycled into further investments. The competitive nature of the process for investors is welcomed by businesses as this effectively reduces the final interest rate set. Around £20,000 remains in the Council's Funding Circle account and is available to be lent out to Nottinghamshire businesses. This amount reflects the remaining investment amount agreed by this Committee from its 2013-14 budget plus the regular re-payments plus interest being made since the lending commenced.
15. Given all of these factors, it is proposed that no additional resources are allocated from the 2014-15 budget towards the Funding Circle account at this time, noting that the account can continue to operate through its existing and re-cycled resources into the current financial year.

Further Business Support Options

16. If the above proposals are agreed, that leaves £20,000 for further activity. A number of options are currently being explored, including support to ideas generated via the Council's Key Account work; working with the universities on maximising the impact of their programmes on Nottinghamshire companies; supporting the take-up of national Government programmes such as the Growth Accelerator within the County and exploring the merits of establishing an account with a P2P platform to support investment in Nottinghamshire start-ups.
17. It will be unlikely that all of these could be supported with the remaining resources available. A report on considering options for the remaining funds will be brought to a future Committee meeting.

Reason for Recommendation

18. To support the Committee in meeting its priorities regarding its business support activities as approved at its March 2014 meeting.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

20. The financial implications are set out in the report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

21. It is recommended that the Economic Development Committee:
- a) Agrees an allocation of £55,000 to continue the Business Start-Up programme contracted to NBV Enterprises Ltd from July 2014 – March 2015;
 - b) Notes the performance of the partnership with Funding Circle and its continued operation over 2014-15;
 - c) Receives a further report on options regarding the remaining £20,000 under the Business Support heading at a future meeting.

Report of the Group Manager, Corporate Strategy, Celia Morris

For any enquiries about this report please contact Geoff George (0115) 977 2046

Constitutional Comments (NAB 25.04.14)

Economic Development Committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SEM 24/04/14)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

6th May 2014**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY****WORKSOP TURBINE INNOVATION CENTRE – WITHDRAWAL OF
BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL FROM DEED OF AGREEMENT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To secure approval for the signing of a deed of release to enable Bassetlaw District Council to withdraw from the Deed of Agreement relating to the Worksop Turbine Innovation Centre.

Information and advice

2. Nottinghamshire County Council owns the Worksop Turbine Innovation Centre ('the Turbine'), which was built in 2005-6 using a combination of capital funds from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Single Programme funds and the County Council's own capital contribution. The centre opened in 2006. It is managed by Oxford Innovation Ltd under a five-year contract which also covers the Newark Beacon and Mansfield i-Centre.
3. Prior to the completion of the Turbine build, a Deed of Agreement was signed between the County Council, Bassetlaw District Council and the North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire Sub-regional Strategic Partnership (SSP). This defined the financial contributions each party would make towards the capital build costs and also agreed commitments to meet any future revenue shortfalls.
4. Bassetlaw District Council did not contribute towards the capital build costs but the Deed of Agreement requires the District Council to fund 50% of any ongoing revenue deficit at the Turbine. The County Council meets the other 50%. The deficit is calculated annually by assessing net income against net expenditure. The Deed of Agreement allows for any operating surplus to be distributed amongst the parties in agreed proportions.

Deficit payments to date

5. Since opening in 2006 the Turbine has operated at a loss. Whilst the loss figure has reduced in recent years, total losses to the end of 2013-14 stand at £622,000. Bassetlaw District Council have therefore been required to pay the County Council £311,000. A breakdown of these deficits [rounded to the nearest £1,000] is provided overleaf:

2005/6	-£86,000
2006/7	-£132,000
2007/8	-£86,000
2008/9	-£96,000
2009/10	-£55,000
2010/11	-£9,000
2011/12	-£88,000
2012/13	-£70,000
2013/14	Break even [note: pending finalisation of accounts]
Total	-£622,000

6. As previously reported to this Committee, performance at the Turbine has improved significantly during the last twelve months, and occupancy now stands at over 95%. This has had a marked impact on the operating revenue position and the latest projections forecast that the Turbine will deliver a surplus in 2014-15.

Deed of release

7. A deed of release has been prepared by the County Council and shared with Bassetlaw District Council and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA – successors in title to the North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire SSP from April 2012). The HCA is considering its position and will take a formal decision at its Midlands Regional meeting on 7th May. It is anticipated that the HCA will agree to the proposed change as it is not financially affected by the proposal. All parties have agreed in principle that the deed of release should be executed and be effective from 1st April 2014, subject to formal consent from the HCA as referenced above.
8. Subject to Committee approval, the deed of release will mean that Bassetlaw District Council will not be required to make a financial contribution towards any future deficits at the Turbine. Equally, the District Council will lose its right to a share of any operating surplus generated by the centre. Should the centre generate a capital receipt in the future, the District Council will not have any right to a share of any capital receipt as it did not contribute to the original capital build.
9. The County Council will be solely responsible for any operating revenue deficits at the Turbine but will also be assigned the District Council's proportion of any future surpluses. The HCA's entitlement to a proportion of any future surpluses is not affected, and stands at 37.53%. The County Council would therefore receive 62.47% of any future operating surplus.
10. Bassetlaw District Council have requested that they continue to be members of the Strategic Management Board (SMB) for the Nottinghamshire Innovation Centres, given the importance of the centres to stimulating economic growth and creating jobs in their local areas. There is also value in continued engagement of Bassetlaw District Council at the SMB in terms of our ongoing relationships and partnership work with the District Council on wider growth

initiatives and support for new start and growing businesses in the County. The SMB meeting on 29th April 2014 agreed that Bassetlaw District Council's active engagement with the Innovation Centre work was valued and that they should continue to be invited to the SMB, although noting that the District Council's status would change from voting member to observer.

Risks and considerations

11. As outlined above, there are risks to the County Council of acceding to this request. The County Council will find itself fully liable to any future revenue deficits accrued at the Turbine for the duration of the contract with Oxford Innovation (to March 2016 at the earliest). It is not possible to predict what future deficits might be at the Turbine, although Members will note recent good progress in this regard.
12. Future operating surpluses would accrue to the County Council and HCA in the proportions outlined at paragraph 9. The deed of release would legally confirm that Bassetlaw District Council waives any and all rights to future surpluses.
13. A future management contract could be let as a concession and pass on liability for deficits to the new contractor. This would also mean that any future surpluses generated by the centre would accrue to the contractor and the Council would have limited control over issues such as service standards, business support provision and routine maintenance.

Reason(s) for Recommendations

14. Bassetlaw District Council have formally requested that they be released from the existing Deed of Agreement. Committee consideration of this request is required.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described in the report.

Financial implications

16. A change of this nature will mean that the County Council will be solely responsible for future revenue deficits at the Turbine. Currently, these will need to be met through the Economic Development Committee budget. Forecasts are used at the start of the financial year to enable Economic Development Committee to agree an amount to meet projected deficits. These forecasts are monitored throughout the year to ensure that sufficient funds have been earmarked or to enable funds to be released should the projected deficit reduce.

17. There is a risk that deficits at the Turbine may rise in future years. Equally, should positive progress be maintained, surpluses generated by the centre will accrue to the County Council in full.
18. The existing management contract with Oxford Innovation is not affected by the proposed deed of release.

RECOMMENDATIONS

19. It is recommended that Committee approves the signing of a deed of release to enable Bassetlaw District Council to withdraw from the Deed of Agreement relating to the Worksop Turbine Innovation Centre.

Report of the Group Manager, Corporate Strategy, Celia Morris

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Mandy Ramm, 72685

Constitutional Comments (NAB 1.04.14)

The Economic Development Committee has authority to approve the recommendation set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments [SEM 25/04/14]

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

Deed of Agreement relating to the Worksop Turbine Innovation Centre, 2004

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Worksop North, Cllr Sybil Fielding

6 May 2014**Agenda Item: xx****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY****CONSULTATION RESPONSE: DRAFT ESF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
FOR ENGLAND****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to respond to a DWP consultation on the draft European Social Fund Operational Programme for England 2014-20.

Information and advice

2. On 14th April, the Department for Work and Pensions issued a consultation draft of the European Social Fund Operational Programme for England 2014-20. The deadline for responses is 9th May 2014
3. The consultation response time is very short and that is because the development of the European Social Fund programme has already been the subject of extensive consultation. An initial consultation was commenced on the future of the European Structural Funds in April 2012, to which the County Council responded. Roadshows were held throughout the country in late 2012. Officers of the County Council and the D2N2 LEP attended these events.
4. Following the initial consultations, in 2013, strategy documents outlining the use of EU funds were requested to be developed by the 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships who would have responsibility at a local level for implementing the funds. The County Council has been involved in the development of the D2N2 and SCR EU SIF documents through its LEP engagement arrangements.
5. The National Operational Programme sits above the 39 local strategies for the use of EU funds as developed by the individual LEPs. It has been drawn up to take account of the feedback of the previous consultations, described in paragraph 3 above, and the content of the 39 individual draft LEP EU SIF documents. As a result, and because it covers the whole of England, the document is fairly generic in nature.
6. The European Social Fund is a European Structural Fund. It provides finance to meet the costs of labour market initiatives, such as employment and training type activity.
7. A consultation response has been prepared and is attached for your approval (appendix A)

Reason(s) for Recommendations

8. Responses to consultations are required to be approved by Committee.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that Committee approves the draft response.

Report of the Group Manager, Corporate Strategy, Celia Morris

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Matt Lockley, 72446

Constitutional Comments [NAB 25.04.14]

Economic Development Committee has authority to approve the recommendation set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments [SEM 25/04/14]

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Nottinghamshire County Council's Response Form to the BIS Consultation on Partnership Agreement: Delivery of Structural Funds, Rural Development Funds and Maritime and Fisheries Funds in England: April 2012

European Social Fund Operational Programme 2014-20: Public Consultation, April 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/302578/esf-programme-2014-2020-consultation.pdf

Department for Work and Pensions Consultation Principles, April 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/302579/consultation-principles-foi-feedback.pdf

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Consultation Response Form

Consultation closing date: 5.00pm on 9 May 2014
Your comments must reach us by that date and time

2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England: Consultation on European Social Fund Operational Programme



European Structural and Investment Funds
Growth Programme for England (2014-2020)

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for confidentiality:	

Name:	
Please tick if you are responding on behalf of your organisation.	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>
Name of Organisation (if applicable): Nottinghamshire County Council	

Please mark the box that best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> Local Enterprise Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Opt-In Organisation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> University	<input type="checkbox"/> Core Cities
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Further Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Chambers of Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> Growth Programme Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural Community Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Action Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Please specify if marked as 'Other':

Consultation questions

1. Objectives

To what extent will the Operational Programme focus the European Social Fund on priorities and activities that can deliver local growth and jobs in line with the Europe 2020 objectives?

Comments on **European Social Fund Operational Programme:**

We welcome the objectives to promote employment and social inclusion and invest in education skills and lifelong learning, and believe that they complement local priorities for developing a flexible and innovative workforce to support future economic growth. The focus on developing skills and capacity of those most excluded and furthest removed from the workforce, particularly those young people who are not in education, training or employment, is particularly relevant in our County, where youth unemployment rates are significantly higher than those in the overall population. Our own work with disadvantaged groups also demonstrates the need for intensive support to overcome barriers to employment, including among older people age 50+.

With regard to the Europe 2020 targets, England is already at an employment rate of 74.0% of 20-64 year olds compared to a European target of 75%. The objective to help the unemployed and inactive back into employment will contribute to meeting this target, along with the objective to tackle barriers to work for the disadvantaged. The objective to improve skills levels will help to address the percentage of people completing third level education.

The objective to increase the number of young people in education, employment or training will address the Europe 2020 target of early leavers from education to be less than 10%. It will also address Country-specific targets on youth unemployment, employer engagement with young people, and the number of 18-24 year old with poor basic skills, although we note that the OP will not address the country-specific target of a youth guarantee to address youth unemployment, nor can ESF address the country-specific target to simplify the national qualifications system. The reasons for this are set out in the OP.

With regard to social inclusion, TO9 is specifically focused on this issue. The Europe 2020 target is to reduce the number of people in poverty across the EU by 20 million. There are country specific targets to enhance efforts to support low income households and reduce child poverty, and to reduce the cost of childcare, improve quality and availability. ESF contributions to these targets will be through enabling people into work, intensive work with excluded or disadvantaged groups, and through provision for childcare costs to be met as part of project costs in the delivery of activity.

We note that the last objective, to make skills provision responsive to local economic need, provides particularly for LEPs to make specific provision relevant to their local areas and this will ensure that ESF activity can be tailored specifically to address local factors.

Devolution of the funding to LEPs should ensure that ESF takes account of the real nature of local labour markets and population, align funds more effectively leading to synergies and improvements in overall outcomes, and particularly, enable the perspectives of both the supply side (individuals seeking work, training provider organisations) and the demand side (SMEs / employers) to be addressed in project development and delivery.

2. Needs and opportunities

Do the descriptions of needs and opportunities underpinning the Operational Programme strategy and priorities match your understanding of what is needed locally? How could it be strengthened?

Comments on **European Social Fund Operational Programme:**

The needs and opportunities described in the OP are at a very general level, but they do reflect largely the requirements of the local area.

We note however that our local LEP areas are not mentioned in the section on territorial variations, even though as a former coal mining area, North Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire would fall into the category described of significant decline in heavy industry where higher levels of inactivity are seen.

The local EU-SIF document identifies relatively high levels of unemployment in the former coalfields and urban parts of the local LEP area. Youth unemployment is persistently high, well above unemployment rates in older groups, and this also noticeable for the South Notts area in the map illustrating this issue on p17 of the Consultation Draft, although the D2N2 LEP is not referenced as having access to the Youth Employment Initiative in para 45, although there are high levels of youth unemployment, these tend to be concentrated in particular localities.

Our local plans also provide for more focused support in deprived communities and with disadvantaged groups. The County Council has just commissioned new work with learning disabled young people focused on helping them into employment, for example. The OP generally reflects these types of needs.

Unemployment is also a growing problem amongst workers over 50. Many of the older unemployed also face disadvantage such as health or disability issues. The County Council is also aware particularly of ICT skills needs amongst older unemployed workers and would like to see a specific reference to this in the OP.

There is work needed to support unemployed people with health conditions get into work. Broadly this involves linking people to support from health professionals and alongside this, support for employability skills. Experience in the local area shows the health issues are split in the ratio 55% mental health, 35% muscular/skeletal and the balance other conditions, eg. Cancer. Support services for people with health conditions both in work and unemployed is currently funded through local Clinical Commissioning Groups. We understand national government is going to tender for a health & work service but indicators are that this will be 90% by phone & 10% 1:1, and only for those in work who have been off work for 4 weeks. A focus on employability amongst unemployed people with health conditions using ESF for one-to-one work and intensive support would be helpful.

3. Operational Programme and local strategies

Is there scope within the content of the Operational Programme to be able to deliver the priorities set out in Local Enterprise Partnership area European Structural and Investment Fund strategies? If not, what other activities should be considered? Does the approach allow for all relevant sectors and partner groups to benefit and be involved?

Comments on **European Social Fund Operational Programme:**

There is scope in the OP for most of the envisaged activities within our local LEP EU-SIF document but the D2N2 LEP is also looking to develop sector-based skills action plans to shape provision. This will contribute specifically to the objective to make skills provision responsive to local economic need, as set out in our response at Q1.

The provision of sector-based approaches is not mentioned specifically in the OP and might usefully be added in the context of developing tailored local approaches to address issues in local labour markets, including addressing local skills shortages or opportunities in areas of employment growth.

Within the D2N2 EU-SIF, sectors in which there are skills gaps and forecast future growth where there will be demand for skilled employees, drawn up with input from East Midlands FE colleges, are identified as follows:

- Food and drink manufacturing;
- Engineering including advanced manufacturing;
- Warehousing and distribution;
- Low carbon and sustainable technologies; and
- Creative industries.

The D2N2 strategy is focused on higher value sectors, but the County Council is aware of growth potential in the sectors of health and social care (to do with a growing elderly population) and in the hospitality sector (and more broadly in tourism which is also one of the LEP's key priority sectors). Whilst these may not offer high value employment, they are growing sectors and will offer future employment opportunities, so should not be discounted in the development of skills. There are opportunities also for management and higher specialist skills growth to which starters in those industries can progress.

4. Joined up delivery

How can the European Social Fund be used alongside other EU and national funds to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives?

Comments on **European Social Fund Operational Programme:**

The D2N2 LEP, in which the County Council is a partner, is already working on joining up its Single Growth Fund to work with the EU funds where possible. We are also committed in principle to nearly all of the opt-in offers available, subject to being able to agree local priorities with the opt-in providers.

5. Programme performance measures and demonstrating impact

What indicators should be used to measure the performance of the programme? How do you think we could effectively promote and demonstrate the performance of the programme and impact of the fund?

Comments on **European Social Fund Operational Programme:**

Growth in employment rates / falls in unemployment rates and economic inactivity rates.
Reducing numbers of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training
Increasing levels of qualifications within the local population
Reducing numbers of people with no qualifications
Data from businesses on their ability to fill vacancies and perceptions of skills shortages within the local population.

Specific figures by disadvantaged groups recording outcomes in terms of movement to employment or further training.

Collection of data on participant ages to enable investigation of outcomes by age. This would help to establish whether older workers are being as successful as other groups in accessing the labour market, and might identify if further interventions, e.g. to change attitudes amongst employers, might be needed.

Tools for promotion and demonstration: case studies, preferably showcasing success of individuals, particularly from disadvantaged groups, as a role model for others. We have seen this done by the Prince's Trust with regard to their business support programmes with good effect, and which also had the outcome of generating further referrals / clients for their programmes.

6. Cross cutting themes

How do you envisage implementing the cross cutting themes locally? What more if anything would you like to see in the Operational Programme?

Comments on **European Social Fund Operational Programme:**

We would envisage a consideration of the cross cutting themes as part of the assessment of every proposal to be funded using the ESF, and recording of assistance to people from disadvantaged groups as a standard part of monitoring. Ideally this should include recording age of participants so it is possible to judge levels of engagement from older people.

7. Community led local development

How do you see community led local developments adding value? What further guidance would be helpful?

Comments on **European Social Fund Operational Programme:**

CLLD offers an opportunity for local areas to benefit from locally planned and led approaches. Previously we have seen CLLD-type approaches within our area through the local LEADER group. Offering CLLD through the ESF programme gives an opportunity to move this type of approach to other, non-rural areas, such as the market towns of North Nottinghamshire. We would welcome this type of approach particularly with local engagement and involvement from the local third and business sectors. There may need to be additional support provided to make such an approach attractive to businesses to encourage their participation in these types of programmes.

Equalities assessment questions

1. In what ways do you think that the European Social Fund programme could have positive or negative effects on particular social groups?

(For example: young people, older people, disabled people, people from particular ethnic groups, women, men, LGBT people, women who are pregnant or looking after young children?)

Comments on **European Social Fund Operational Programme:**

The objectives to address social inclusion already identify particular target groups for focus of the funds. These include women, older people, people from particular ethnic groups. These groups will therefore be positively impacted by the ESF programme and will benefit from targeted and intensive support to help them participate in the labour market, which takes account of their particular needs. This is consistent with local plans within the D2N2 LEP, and with the previous experiences of the County Council in delivering employment-related services to disadvantaged people, particularly in older age groups 50+.

There is a specific objective to address youth unemployment, including working with NEET young people and improving basic skills levels among 18-24 year olds, that will impact particularly on young people. This priority is picked up within D2N2 EU-SIF and it will form part of the Nottinghamshire commissioning plans. Under the D2N2 LEP Strategic Objective 13 Young People, provision will be made for innovative activities to support NEET young people to enter the labour market, including those with poor literacy and numeracy skills and with no or few qualifications. This activity will also relate to the Country-specific objectives on combating youth unemployment as described in the first question in this consultation.

With regard to people with children, the ESF provides for childcare costs to be met as eligible expenditure and thus is able to offer a positive effect for people with this type of caring responsibility, that tend to be women.

Given our response to Question 2 on Needs and opportunities above, we would like to see ESF support for unemployed people with health issues.

2. Are there any opportunities to further enhance equality through the European Social Fund Programme and how might any negative effects be mitigated? Do you have any suggestions for improving access to the programme for different groups of people?

Comments on **European Social Fund Operational Programme:**

Support for small scale projects targeted at particular sections of the community was more difficult to obtain in the last programming period given the Skills Funding Agency's stated preference for fewer, large contracts. We hope that the devolution of funding to the LEPs will provide revived opportunity for specialist interventions targeted at minority groups. The Social Inclusion Thematic Objective, with the assistance of BIG co-financing, provides a route to do this. Both the third sector and local authorities would be suitable providers of this type of support.

There may also be opportunities to increase digital inclusion, e.g through the development of IT skills training funded through ESF. Being IT literate and online is an increasingly important part of being able to access the labour market, as well as ability to access public services. Nottinghamshire County Council has discovered this to be a significant factor in accessing employment opportunities for older unemployed people. Making IT skills training available to this group particularly will also contribute towards digital inclusion as a wider objective.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply.	<input type="checkbox"/>
E-mail address for acknowledgement:	

Completed responses should be sent to the details below by **5.00pm on 9 May 2014.**

Send by post to:

ESF Operational Programme Consultation
European Social Fund Policy Team
Department for Work and Pensions
Level 2
Rockingham House
123 West Street
Sheffield
S1 4ER

Organisation: Department for Work and Pensions

Send by email to:

ESF.2014-2020@dw.p.gsi.gov.uk

6 May 2014**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****WORK PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2013/14.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
3. The attached work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.
4. As part of the transparency introduced by the new committee arrangements, committees are expected to review day to day operational decisions made by officers using their delegated powers. It is anticipated that the committee will wish to commission periodic reports on such decisions. The committee is therefore requested to identify activities on which it would like to receive reports for inclusion in the work programme. It may be that the presentations about activities in the committee's remit will help to inform this.
5. The work programme already includes a number of reports on items suggested by the committee.

Other Options Considered

6. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the committee's work programme be noted, and consideration be given to any changes which the Committee wishes to make.

Jayne Francis-Ward
Corporate Director, Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Gately x 72826

Constitutional Comments (HD)

1. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (PS)

2. There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report. Any future reports to Committee on operational activities and officer working groups, will contain relevant financial information and comments.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>For Decision or Information ?</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Report Author</u>
3 June 2014				
Innovation Centres – annual performance review	To receive the annual performance review of the Nottinghamshire Innovation Centres contract. To include a presentation from the centre managers, Oxford Innovation.	Information	Mandy Ramm Oxford Innovation	Mandy Ramm
Experience Nottinghamshire performance update	Performance update on the Service Level Agreement with Experience Nottinghamshire.	Information	Celia Morris	Mandy Ramm
Town centre regeneration activity	To consider proposals for project activity and budget allocations relating to town centre regeneration in Nottinghamshire.	Decision	Geoff George	Kay Massingham
1 July 2014				
Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire – progress update	Update on the roll-out and phase two of the programme.	Information	Nicola McCoy Brown	Nicola McCoy Brown
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Destination Management Plan	To consider and approve the proposed Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Destination Management Plan	Decision	Celia Morris	Mandy Ramm
Sector working – outlining our approach	To agree an approach to working across key sectors of the economy in Nottinghamshire.	Decision	Matt Lockley	Fiona Anderson
16 September 2014				
Nottinghamshire Economic Development Capital Fund – round one applications	To receive information on the first round of applications for the Nottinghamshire Economic Development Capital Fund	Information (possible decision)	Geoff George	Kay Massingham
D2N2 update – Strategic Economic Plan and Local Growth Fund	To update Committee on the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan, Local Growth Fund allocation and EU funding programmes.	Information	Matt Lockley	Matt Lockley
14 October 2014				
Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire – progress update	Update on the roll-out and phase two / three of the programme and on the outcome of the Superfast Extension application.	Information	Nicola McCoy Brown	Nicola McCoy Brown
Economic Development Strategy – delivery plan and budget 2014-15	To consider performance against the delivery plan and budget for 2014-15.	Information (possible decision)	Celia Morris	Matt Lockley

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>For Decision or Information ?</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Report Author</u>
Youth Employment Strategy – progress update	To receive a progress update on the two projects funded through the Council's Youth Employment Strategy budget	Information	Fiona Anderson	Trish Adams
18 November 2014				
Key account management – performance update	To consider the annual performance report for the Key Account Management approach to business engagement.	Information (possible decision)	Matt Lockley	Mandy Ramm
6 January 2015				

Last updated 15 April 2014