

5 July 2016**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE****N2 SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT BOARD****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on The N2 Skills & Employment Board (N2 SEB) including recent achievements and development work.

N2 Skills and Employment Board Background

2. The N2 SEB was established in 2014 to provide private sector leadership on the employment and skills priorities for N2 and has strategic responsibility for making sure the skills and employment landscape across N2 best supports business growth and job creation.
3. The N2 SEB and The D2 SEB are jointly accountable to the D2N2 LEP Skills and Employment Commission and the N2 Economic Prosperity Committee.
4. Facilitated by the N2 Skills & Employment Partnership Manager the overall remit of the N2SEB is to work across partners, commissioners and providers to ensure that skills in the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire labour market match the current and future needs of employers supporting the overall D2N2 Skills for Growth Strategy.
5. The Board represents nine of the eleven N2 priority sectors and there is development work underway to fill gaps in the Visitor Economy and Transport & Logistics sectors.
6. The four N2 SEB strategic priorities are:
 - Making the skills and employment support landscape simpler and more accessible for employers and individuals
 - Developing an 'early years to employment' approach which ensures that young people in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are prepared for the world of work and the future needs of our economy
 - Re-engaging unemployed and disengaged people through pathways that prepare and reintroduce them to the labour market
 - Ensuring the local workforce develops the higher level skills needed to increase business productivity and competitiveness whilst enabling individuals to fulfill their potential.

7. The N2 SEB meets on a quarterly basis allowing for greater activity to take place in between meetings.

N2 Skills & Employment Board Champions Initiative

8. The N2 SEB have fully endorsed the concept of each private sector Board member becoming a “Champion” for either their sector and/or a theme of work (Apprenticeships, Employability, and Graduate Retention). To date, there are eleven N2 SEB Champions leading the delivery of discrete Board level initiatives.
9. For example, on the area of Graduate Retention, Boots are working with the City Council, County Council and the Vice Chancellors of the two Nottingham Universities to develop a joint approach to increasing levels of graduate retention across N2.

D2N2 Health & Social Care Skills Action Plan

10. The Health & Social Care sector is a priority sector for N2 and a Priority Employment Sector for D2N2, the current workforce is 126,000 and this is forecast to grow significantly. It was therefore important to develop a clear written statement of the challenges affecting employers and establish a set of robust recommendations in partnership with employers and stakeholders to address these challenges.
11. The N2 SEB Champions for Health & Social Care provided private sector leadership throughout the development of the Action Plan, the Plan has now been adopted and published by the D2N2 LEP. A Health & Social Care Skills Advisory Group has been established to oversee implementation and have agreed some initial objectives:
 - a. Develop a D2N2 Health & Social Care marketing strategy to improve the perception of the sector and to stimulate investment.
 - b. Develop a network of Health & Social Care Enterprise Advisors and install a network of Graduate and Apprenticeship ambassadors to improve career pathways.
 - c. Develop and maintain a matrix of skills and workforce development activity across D2N2 which avoids duplication and develops new market led initiatives.

Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC)

12. The CEC is a mechanism established by central government to facilitate closer working between employers and schools to enable young people to fully realise their career potential. Members received a presentation from the CEC at the June 2016 Committee meeting.

N2 Skills & Employment Board Achievements

13. Identified below are the 2016 achievements:

- Strengthening of N2 SEB sector representation
- Reviewing the governance, the N2 SEB now meets on a quarterly basis allowing for greater activity to be undertaken by board members in priority sectors
- Established 11 N2 SEB Champions
- Careers Enterprise Company launch and project management
- Completed N2 Skills & Employment Provision Review
- Completed N2 Careers Provision Review
- D2N2 Health & Social Care Skills Action Plan adopted and published by the LEP

The N2 SEB will continue to inform a range of Skills & Employment initiatives across N2 ranging from the development of an N2 Apprenticeship Action Plan to providing support to the Area Based Review in November 2016.

Sustainability

14. The N2 SEB is a voluntary private sector led group. Sustainability of the board depends on the commitment of the private sector to continue supporting the SEB. The N2 SEB Coordinators post is jointly funded by the City, County and D2N2 LEP until March 2017.

15. Employers are well engaged and membership has grown with six new private sector representatives joining the Board this year.

Reason(s) for Recommendations

16. To ensure that Committee is kept informed of N2 SEB activity.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, 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 within the body of the report.

Finance implications

18. None.

RECOMMENDATION

19. It is recommended that Economic Prosperity Committee note this report and promote the good practice of the N2 SEB to citizens and local businesses across the county.

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Corporate Director Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Fiona Anderson ext. 72688

Constitutional Comments [KK 20160622]

The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Economic Development Committee.

Financial Comments [RWK 22/06/2016]

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

- *N2 Skills and Employment Board* – report to Economic Development Committee, published 06-01-2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All