

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd JUNE
2016 AT 9.30AM AT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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 **A**
Councillor Roger Blaney – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Councillor Cheryl Butler – Ashfield District Council
Councillor John Clarke – Gedling Borough Council
Councillor Jon Collins – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Richard Jackson – Broxtowe Borough Council
Councillor Joanna White – Bassetlaw District Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

Sara Allmond – Nottinghamshire County Council
Ian Curryer – Chief Executive, Nottingham City Council
Simon Hall – Nottingham City Council
Chris Henning – Nottingham City Council
Allen Graham – Chief Executive, Rushcliffe Borough Council
Ruth Hyde – Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council
Matt Lockley – Nottinghamshire County Council
Anthony May – Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
Robert Mitchell – Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council
Andrew Muter – Chief Executive, Newark & Sherwood District Council
John Robinson – Chief Executive, Gedling Borough Council
Mike Robinson – Director of Economy, Mansfield District Council
Neil Taylor – Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council
Stuart Turner, Nottinghamshire County Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mayor Kate Allsop and Bev Smith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 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. PRESENTATION ON SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT GOVERNANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Allen Graham, Chief Executive Rushcliffe Borough Council gave a presentation on the coordination and prioritisation of skills. The presentation covered the skills activities taking place and planned for the future; the current structure around the skills agenda and a plan of action for developing the skills strategy.

A number of key stakeholders were involved in skills provision with their own priorities and it was important to work together to maximise potential whilst fulfilling individual needs.

A single document was being prepared to identify the gaps in provision and how these could be plugged. An employability framework was in place which the LEP were using to discuss the issue with businesses.

The need to link into the Infinity Park in Derby was discussed; a briefing paper on this would be circulated to members along with a briefing paper on the area based reviews.

It was important to ensure that the work commissioned was targeted to the areas where needed. Provision was currently driven too much by the providers rather than by the wider needs of the whole area.

The current governance structure was discussed; there was concern regarding the current structure in relation to possible duplication of work and conflicting views, however it would be difficult to change the structure without getting bogged down in governance issues.

RESOLVED 2016/013

To note the presentation

5. GRADUATE RETENTION IN N2

Allen Graham, Chief Executive Rushcliffe Borough Council introduced the report which provided the Committee with information on activities to increase graduate retention in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

During discussions it was agreed that an action plan was needed to establish how to retain graduates within N2 and how to attract businesses that required graduates to the area.

A number of N2 local authorities hosted graduates through the national graduate scheme. It was felt appropriate to look into developing a local scheme which could target local graduates to encourage them to remain within the area.

RESOLVED 2016/014

- 1) That the report be noted and it be agreed that Graduate Retention in N2 be a priority for the Economic Prosperity Committee.
- 2) To receive a report and action plan on improving Graduation Retention in N2 at the meeting of 23rd September 2016.
- 3) Request Nottingham University and Nottingham Trent University give a joint presentation of their activities to retain graduates in N2.
- 4) That the possibility of an N2 local authority graduate scheme be investigated, with the aim of attracting graduates from Nottinghamshire Universities, and Graduates from the Nottinghamshire area.

6. THE FUTURE OF APPRENTICESHIPS

Allen Graham, Chief Executive Rushcliffe Borough Council introduced the report which advised the committee of the major changes to the funding and delivery models of apprenticeships within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and provided information on possible next steps to develop a coordinated response to the changes.

The introduction of the levy would impact on all N2 local authorities and it was important to ensure that apprenticeships were developed within the authorities to maximise the return of the levies. In the current climate the creation of new posts would be difficult; however the funding could be used to turn existing posts into apprenticeship positions. Different levels of apprenticeships attracted different funding opportunities meaning that higher level apprenticeships could be established.

It was proposed that the N2 authorities worked together to determine what schemes were already in place; to identify skills needs across the authorities and look to establish apprenticeship schemes to fulfil these needs. It was also proposed to consider how SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) could be supported to enable them to take on apprentices.

A number of larger businesses were considering not using the funding for apprenticeships and instead viewing it as a further tax. If this happened it was proposed to lobby Government to enable the use of the levy to fund other apprenticeship schemes in the local area rather than being taken back into Central Government.

RESOLVED 2016/015

That a detailed report be prepared for consideration at the 23rd September 2016 meeting which proposes a draft strategy for apprenticeships across N2, with a specific focus on:

- a) Analysis of skills needed across both local authorities and businesses in the N2 area, which apprenticeships could be used to fill;
- b) Analysis of the current provision of apprenticeships across Nottinghamshire Authorities, with a view to greater joint working on future arrangements;
- c) How SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) can be supported to take up apprenticeships
- d) The strategy should include measurable targets for each of the levels of apprenticeships, including higher apprenticeships.

7. D2N2 GROWTH HUB UPDATE

Simon Hall, Business Growth Manager, Nottingham City Council introduced the report and gave a presentation on the D2N2 Growth Hub.

The Growth Hub function was to provide support to existing businesses so they could grow and to help them cut through bureaucracy to enable them to do this.

A more targeted distribution of support was requested to target businesses across the whole of the N2 area.

RESOLVED 2016/016

That the D2N2 Growth Hub Update be noted and that a further update be provided in December 2016

8. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2016/017

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

- Report and action plan on Graduate Retention in N2 – 23rd September meeting
- Detailed report on apprenticeships – 23rd September meeting
- D2N2 Growth Hub Update – 23rd December meeting

The meeting closed at 10.50am

CHAIRMAN