

THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2022 AT 9.00 AM AT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

(A* denotes absent from the meeting but joined remotely, without voting rights)

Chairman – Councillor Ben Bradley MP – Nottinghamshire County Council

Mayor Andy Abrahams – Mansfield District Council

Councillor John Clarke MBE – Gedling Borough Council – A

Councillor Simon Greaves – Bassetlaw District Council – A

Councillor David Lloyd – Newark and Sherwood District Council – A*

Councillor David Mellen – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Milan Radulovic – Broxtowe Borough Council – A

Councillor Simon Robinson – Rushcliffe Borough Council - A

Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Ashfield District Council – A

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Michael Payne for Councillor John Clarke

Councillor Andy Edyvean for Councillor Simon Robinson

Councillor Matthew Relf for Councillor Jason Zadrozny – A*

OFFICERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

(*Denotes joined remotely)

David Armiger – Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council*

Hannah Barrett – Economic Development Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council

Mel Barrett – Chief Executive, Nottingham City Council - A

Gerry Dawson – Interim Manager - Place, Nottinghamshire County Council*

Teresa Hodgkinson – Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council

Ruth Hyde – Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council - A

Kath Marriott – Chief Executive, Rushcliffe Borough Council

Anthony May – Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council

John Robinson – Chief Executive, Newark & Sherwood District Council

Keith Ford – Democratic Services Team Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council

SUBSTITUTE OFFICERS

(*Denotes joined remotely)

Sajeeda Rose – Corporate Director for Growth and City Development, Nottingham City Council for Mel Barrett

Zulfiqar Darr – Deputy Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council for Ruth Hyde*
Michael Robinson – Interim Co-Chief Executive, Mansfield District Council

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed for signing by the Chair of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Clarke MBE, Councillor Simon Greaves, Councillor Milan Radulovic, Councillor Simon Robinson and Councillor Jason Zadrozny.

Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor David Lloyd and Councillor Matthew Relf, who both joined the meeting remotely, inputting into the debate without voting.

Apologies were also received from Mel Barrett (Nottingham City Council), Mike Hill (Gedling) and Ruth Hyde (Broxtowe Borough Council).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. JOINT WORKING AND DEVOLUTION PROGRAMME UPDATE

Anthony May introduced the item and fed back from recent discussions between the Leaders of the four upper tier authorities - Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council (D2N2) and subsequent discussions with Neil O'Brien, the Minister for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and civil servants.

There had been broad agreement reached amongst these authorities to explore a Level 3 deal of a Mayoral Combined Authority for the D2N2 area. The need for local support for such proposals was key, particularly in relation to the forms of governance and means of drawing down the relevant powers.

A Devolution Deal Proposal template would need to be completed and submitted to Government by 25 March 2022 to formalise the interest in such a deal. Timescales for the implementation of deals agreed were not clear at this stage and would be dependent upon legislative timetables. Work on the underlying business cases was progressing as detailed within the report to the Committee.

During discussions, Members raised the following issues:

- the importance of having greater clarity around the proposed governance arrangements at an early stage was underlined, thereby maintaining and

building upon the existing strong working relationships between councils in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire;

- the underlining of the commitment to keep the District and Brough Councils involved in the devolution discussions, as detailed in the report to Nottinghamshire County Council's Policy Committee meeting of 24 March 2022, was welcomed;
- the need to involve the Fire Authority, as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner, in ongoing discussions was recognised and officers confirmed that plans were underway to enable that, along with discussions with other relevant partner organisations;
- the Government's recognition of the D2N2 as a viable area, which could bring greater economies of scale in terms of investment in the East Midlands, was welcomed;
- the advantages and disadvantages of devolution were being weighed up by elected Members within authorities, with the potential greater levels of investment in the area being recognised as the overriding positive factor. There was a desire for resources offered in this latest phase of devolution to be on a similar scale to those previously devolved to the West Midlands and Greater Manchester combined authorities;
- Members were keen for the bid to be recognised as a 'pathfinder' that could help influence and shape the Government's thinking and plans about the opportunities offered in this latest phase of devolution, including governance arrangements and possible powers and funding.

RESOLVED 2022/001

- 1) That progress to date on the devolution and joint working programme and the update on the Levelling Up White Paper be noted.
- 2) That the ongoing discussions about a devolution deal on a Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire footprint be noted.
- 3) That the next steps listed under paragraph 16 of the report be approved.

The meeting closed at 9.30 am

CHAIRMAN