

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC
PROSPERITY COMMITTEE AND D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP****Purpose of the report**

1. To update Policy Committee on the work of the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee and on the work of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership.

Background

2. At its meeting in November 2015, Policy Committee requested an update on the work of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) and on the work of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). This progress report is offered in response to that request and will form the basis of six-monthly progress reports going forward.
3. The D2N2 LEP was established in December 2010 in response to significant changes to the economic development landscape that were introduced by the then coalition government. Since 2010, Local Enterprise Partnerships have become well established across England and the current government remains fully supportive of them as the principal vehicles for driving economic growth and regeneration. The Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) Local Enterprise Partnership is chaired by Peter Richardson, a Derbyshire businessman. The Leader of the County Council is a Board Member.
4. The LEP is responsible for significant growth resources that are allocated to the area by the government, including the Local Growth Fund, European Structural and Investment Funds, the Growing Places Fund, Skills Capital funding and other, smaller revenue funding streams relating to business support and skills development.
5. A Sub Committee of the LEP Board has been established to provide oversight and strategic input to the management of the European Structural and Investment Funds programme, which runs until 2020. This Sub Committee meets on the same cycle as the D2N2 Board as the majority of Board members also sit on the Sub Committee. The Sub Committee considers recommendations from the government's Growth Team (based at the Department for Communities and Local Government) on projects that have applied for European funding support and advises the Growth Team on which projects should go forward to funding agreements.
6. The Leader of the Council has a seat on the D2N2 LEP Board and the Chief Executive acts as an advisor. Cllr Diana Meale is the County Council's representative on the D2N2 ESIF

Sub Committee and Tim Gregory, Corporate Director, Place, has observer status on this Sub Committee.

7. A number of schemes in Nottinghamshire have benefitted from investment through the LEP's capital resources:
 - i. Harworth Access Road
 - ii. Vision West Notts University Centre
 - iii. Rolls Royce Hucknall
 - iv. Lindhurst / Berry Hill
 - v. Medicity (Enterprise Zone)
 - vi. Newark Southern Link Road
 - vii. A57 / A60 improvements in Worksop
 - viii. Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire

Further schemes including the proposed reopening of the Dukeries Line to Ollerton, a town centre regeneration programme and extensions to the Creative Village in Worksop and the Retford Enterprise Centre are currently being developed for the next round of the Local Growth Fund.

8. The LEP has also successfully launched the Growth Hub for the D2N2 area. This co-ordinates access to business support for companies across the area, with a focus on companies that demonstrate higher growth potential in the LEP's priority sectors. The Growth Hub is due to benefit from investment through the European Structural and Investment Fund programme and the County Council has committed to supporting this with an annual contribution of £50,000 for the next three years, to ensure an enhanced level of service in Nottinghamshire (approved at Economic Development Committee on 3rd November 2015).
9. The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) was formally established at the beginning of 2014. It replaced the previous Notts Leaders meetings and the Joint Leadership Board and was set up to reflect the requirement for a more formal arrangement in Nottinghamshire to support work with the D2N2 LEP. A similar Prosperity Committee was also established for Derby and Derbyshire. The EPC meets in public and the Leader of the County Council is currently in the chair. All of the Leaders of local authorities in Nottinghamshire are members of the EPC and all of the Chief Executives attend in an advisory capacity.
10. The EPC has responsibility for strategic issues related to growth and economic development in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. It is steering the development of a single Growth Strategy for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire as well as considering strategic priorities such as employment and skills, infrastructure and place marketing. The EPC has a recognised role in terms of advising the D2N2 LEP on investment priorities for the area, in particular with regard to the Local Growth Fund, where the EPC considers projects from across the area and proposes priorities for endorsement to the D2N2 LEP.
11. The EPC regularly receives updates on the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) programme and on the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire programme and has supported the County Council's efforts to secure additional resources in terms of the latter.

12. Finally, the EPC has oversight of the Nottinghamshire authorities' Business Rates Pool (excluding the City of Nottingham) in so far as the agreement to allocate a proportion of the pool to support economic development and growth in the county area and the development of the Combined Authority is concerned.

Recent priorities

13. The business of both the D2N2 LEP Board and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire EPC has been dominated in recent months by the proposed Devolution Deal which includes the establishment of a single Combined Authority with directly elected Mayor. Indeed, alongside the D2N2 Board and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire EPC, the Leaders of all 19 authorities in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire have been meeting on a frequent basis to discuss these proposals, the negotiations with government and the requirements for implementation should a deal be reached.

14. At its most recent meeting on 18th January, the D2N2 Board considered reports on the Nottingham and Derby Enterprise Zones, Growing Places Fund, Skills and Employment Commission and the work of the Infrastructure and Investment Board (which oversees the LEP's capital investment programme).

15. The EPC last met on 18th December 2015. At this meeting, Leaders considered reports on the D2N2 European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) programme and opportunities for Nottinghamshire and Leaders also gave their support to a proposed bid for ESIF resources by Nottinghamshire County Council for a digital business support programme. Discussion items included the devolution deal and a proposed approach to the next round of Local Growth Fund resources. Finally, the EPC also agreed to support the change of secretariat for the Committee from Nottingham City Council to Nottinghamshire County Council to reflect the change in chairmanship.

16. The EPC meets again on Friday 19th February where it is scheduled to discuss the Combined Authority proposal, the spending plan for the Combined Authority, progress with Marketing Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and the Nottinghamshire Business Investment Zone programme.

Other options

17. None considered as this is a progress report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. To provide information on the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee and D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership for Policy Committee, as requested by Members in November 2015.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. 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 in the body of the report.

Financial Implications

20. The County Council has contributed £62,500 per year towards the core running costs of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership since 2011-12, although this arrangement is under review for the next financial year pending decisions on the Combined Authority. This contribution has been matched by the other upper tier councils and has enabled D2N2 to draw down £250,000 per year from the government to support ongoing revenue costs. The County Council contributes £3,500 per year towards the secretariat costs for the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee. Similar contributions are made by every Nottinghamshire council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Policy Committee notes this report.

COUNCILLOR ALAN RHODES
Leader of the Council

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Constitutional Comments

Constitutional Comments are not required as this progress report is for noting only.

Financial Comments (SES 26/01/16)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Establishment of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee; report to Full Council, 16th January 2014, published.

Consultation response: proposal to amend legislation relating to Combined Authorities and Economic Prosperity Boards; report to Policy Committee, 4th June 2014, published.

Economic Development Update; report to Policy Committee, 10th September 2014, published.

Proposals for a Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority; report to Economic Development Committee, 18th November 2014, published.

Establishment of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority; report to County Council, 15th January 2015, published.

Up to November 2015, all published reports to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee are available here:

<http://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=416>.

From December 2015, all published reports to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee are available here:

<http://ws43-0029.nottscc.gov.uk/dmsadmin/Meetings.aspx>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All