

STRATEGIC PLAN Priority 3 - Supporting economic growth and employment

Key Indicators

Outcome	Indicator	National	Target	Latest	Previous	Good is
3.1	Number of development schemes brought forward by the County Council and partners that are prioritised in future Growth Plans (Annual 2015-16)	N/A	4	4	4	High
3.3	Total number of premises passed by a fibre-based broadband infrastructure (Q)	N/A	23,268	23,153	21,916	High
3.5	Percentage of young people aged 16-17 not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Q3)	N/A	2.6%	1.4%*	1.2% (Q3 2014)	Low
3.5	Number of young people taking up apprenticeships through the Council's investment in youth employment (Q4)	N/A	82	86	74	High

Summary

The Council has continued to support four employment sites and a number of proposals are awaiting the anticipated Local Growth Fund Round 3 as detailed in key action 3.1 below.

Better Broadband is proceeding as scheduled and is currently in Phase 6 of delivery.

Construction of the new road as part of the Hucknall town centre improvement scheme commenced in January and it is anticipated to be open to traffic in the Autumn.

Key Actions and Milestones

Outcome	Milestone
3.1	Support Nottinghamshire projects to access capital investment through the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan, Growing Places Fund, Regional Growth Fund and the Nottinghamshire Investment Fund
Progress	Four employment sites at Rolls-Royce Hucknall, Berry Hill and the two Nottingham Employment Zone (EZ) sites at Botts and Beeston Business Park continue to be directly supported by the Council to secure support through D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) related routes, be it via their status as EZ sites and/or via Growing Places Fund/Growth Deal funding. A number of Nottinghamshire based proposals are the subject of an anticipated Local Growth Fund Round 3 (LGF3) call. While final details are awaited from the Government and thence the D2N2 LEP, the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre, extensions to the Creative Village in Worksop and to Retford Enterprise Centre have been submitted. Businesses have been encouraged to explore direct applications to the funding opportunities referenced above.
3.3	Deliver phases 4-6 of the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire programme and secure additional investment through contract 2
Progress	The Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire (BBFN) programme is currently in Phase 6 of delivery. The roll-out is proceeding as scheduled. The figure above relates to total homes (premises) passed in 2015-16. The figure is below the target as the indicator has been over delivered in previous quarters. BBFN programme has met the contractual targets for contract 1.
3.3	Invest in Hucknall town centre improvement scheme to regenerate the town centre
Progress	Work on the scheme started in October 2015 and the demolition phase was completed just before Christmas. The main contractor has taken ownership of the site and has started construction of the new road on 11th January 2016. The new road will open to traffic in late October 2016 with the pedestrianisation completed for Spring 2017.
3.4	Continue to pay all central employed staff the Living Wage Foundation rate as a minimum.
Progress	As part of its commitment to fair pay and modelling this as good practice to other employers in Nottinghamshire, the Council adopted the Living Wage Foundation Living Wage rate and implemented this for its lowest paid frontline employees from 1st April 2014. The current Living Wage Foundation rate is £8.25p an hour, inclusive of the annual increases in the rate from November 2015.
3.5	Work with Futures as part of the Economic Development Strategy to promote the benefits of apprenticeships, encouraging take-up across small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Support young people to be 'employment ready' through the provision of pre-apprenticeship training
Progress	The number of SMEs supported to take on their first apprentice through the scheme during Quarter 4 is 10 taking the year end total to 57. Since the project started in April 2014, a total of 142 SMEs have taken on an apprentice with 25 of these SMEs having taken on further apprentices as a result of the scheme. The pre-apprenticeship training provision was originally proposed by Futures before the introduction of Traineeships, the Government programme designed to help young people who want to get an apprenticeship or job but do not yet have appropriate skills or experience.

Pressures / Challenges

Key challenges

The early part of 2016/17 will see further refinement of bids by the Council and partners to the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Growth Fund (LGF3) resources and anticipated approval of projects seeking support via the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

The 3rd round of the Council's Economic Development Capital Fund will be launched, seeking applications for investment in Nottinghamshire businesses.

* Quarter 4 data is not available at the time the appendix was compiled