

THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 18th MARCH 2016 AT 9.30AM AT RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

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Chairman – Councillor Alan Rhodes – Nottinghamshire County Council
Vice- Chairman – Councillor Neil Clarke MBE – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Mayor Kate Allsop – Mansfield District Council
Councillor Roger Blaney – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Councillor Cheryl Butler – Ashfield District Council
Councillor John Clarke – Gedling Borough Council - **A**
Councillor Jon Collins – Nottingham City Council – **A**
Councillor Richard Jackson – Broxtowe Borough Council
Councillor Jo White – Bassetlaw District Council – **A**

Councillor Simon Greaves – Bassetlaw District Council – substitute for Councillor White
Councillor Michael Payne – Gedling Borough Council – substitute for Councillor John Clarke

OFFICERS PRESENT

Sara Allmond – Nottinghamshire County Council
Verna Bayliss – Derby City Council
Allen Graham – Chief Executive, Rushcliffe Borough Council
Tim Gregory – Nottinghamshire County Council
Chris Henning – Nottingham City Council
Matt Lockley – Nottinghamshire County Council
Robert Mitchell – Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council
Andrew Muter – Chief Executive, Newark & Sherwood District Council
Glen O’Connell – Nottingham City Council
David Ralph – D2N2 LEP
John Robinson – Chief Executive, Gedling Borough Council
James Schrodell – Nottingham City Council
Bev Smith – Managing Director, Mansfield District Council
Neil Taylor – Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Clarke, Jon Collins and Jo White. Councillor Michael Payne substituted for Councillor John Clarke and Councillor Simon Greaves substituted for Councillor Jo White.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 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. BETTER BROADBAND FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - UPDATE

Matt Lockley introduced the report which provided an update on the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire (BBfN) programme. The coverage target was 62,000 homes and over 63,000 had been covered by March 2016, with over £17 million invested. The target was for 98% coverage across Nottinghamshire by the end of Contract Two, however there were discrepancies in terms of coverage across the county. Further funding was coming through as the contract gave back additional funding if targets were hit, so there was likely to be £2.2 million additional plus £300,000 in efficiency savings giving £2.5 million to reinvest. A more targeted approach was proposed for this funding, targeting the areas with lower coverage – Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood and Rushcliffe to bring the percentage coverage up in these areas. The funding would enable an additional 1,500 houses to be covered, this was due to these houses being the most difficult to reach and therefore the most expensive to cover.

There would be approximately 2,500 houses that would not get coverage through the programme and did not receive the minimum 2 Mbps internet speed. Vouchers of up to £350 would be offered to these households for satellite broadband services. Whilst satellite broadband was less resilient than fixed, fibre broadband the technology to deliver satellite solutions was constantly improving and speeds of approximately 20 Mbps could be achieved. The satellite scheme was launched in February in Nottinghamshire. Take up had initially been slow, however it was now increasing.

RESOLVED 2016/005

- 1) That the progress of the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire (BBfN) programme be noted and in particular the prospect of achieving 98% superfast coverage by 2018.
- 2) That the additional investment of approximately £2.5 million that has been secured through the gainshare mechanism and contract efficiencies be noted.
- 3) That the additional coverage priorities highlighted at paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report be noted.

5. EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUND (ESIF) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - UPDATE

Chris Henning introduced the report which provided an update on the D2N2 European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) programme. The programme was moving from solely commissioning to delivering, from April. The ESIF programme for 2014-16 was worth £173 million (subject to exchange rates). The report provided information on the projects approved and the bids which had been put forward for approval. The report also provided information on the future calls programme.

RESOLVED 2016/006

- 1) That the current status of European Union (EU) funding bids and work underway to secure these funds be noted;
- 2) That the Sustainable Urban Development strategy for the Nottingham Urban area which has been submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for negotiation, be noted.

6. DEVOLUTION AND COMBINED AUTHORITY – VERBAL UPDATE

Andrew Muter provided an update on the Devolution and Combined Authority. Following the last meeting of the 19 Leaders, the position was clarified regarding geography. Four Derbyshire areas would not be part of the devolution bid, plus Chesterfield and Bassetlaw had asked to be considered as non-constituent members of the bid as they had requested to become constituent members of another bid. Clarity from the Government was required regarding the implications of these requests.

The recruitment of the three roles agreed at the previous meeting were currently on hold, in light of the changes to the bid.

Concern was raised regarding those voicing in the media that a unitary deal should now be considered. This was not a viable alternative as it would not result in the transfer of powers on offer through the Devolution or Combined Authority deals.

RESOLVED 2016/007

That the update be noted.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

The proposed June date would be moved due to the Referendum vote taking place the day before.

RESOLVED 2016/008

That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 10.10am

CHAIRMAN