

THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 22 June 2016 at 09:30

**County Hall, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2
7QP**

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
| 3 | Minutes of the Economic Prosperity Committee meeting held on 20 May 2016 | 3 - 6 |
| 4 | Presentation on Skills and Employment Governance and Infrastructure | |
| 5 | Graduate Retention in N2 | 7 - 12 |
| 6 | The Future of Apprenticeships | 13 - 18 |
| 7 | D2N2 Growth Hub Update | 19 - 22 |
| 8 | Work Programme | 23 - 26 |

Notes

- (a) Members of the public are welcome to attend to observe meetings of the Economic Prosperity. Please note that there is no opportunity for the public to speak at these meetings.
- (b) Declarations of Interests – Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to their own Council's Code of Conduct and the Committee's Procedural Rules.

Members or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Sara Allmond (Tel. 0115 9773794) or a colleague in Democratic Services at Nottinghamshire County Council prior to the meeting.

- (c) Members of the public wishing to inspect 'Background Papers' referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 20th MAY 2016 AT 9.30AM AT ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

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

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 Jo White – Bassetlaw District Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

Sara Allmond – Nottinghamshire County Council

Chris Henning – Nottingham City Council

Ruth Hyde – Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council

Matt Lockley – Nottinghamshire County Council

K. J. Marriott – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Anthony May – Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council

Robert Mitchell – Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council

David Ralph – Chief Executive, D2N2 LEP

John Robinson – Chief Executive, Gedling Borough Council

James Schrodel – Nottingham City Council

Bev Smith – Managing Director, Mansfield District Council

Neil Taylor – Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council

Stuart Turner, Nottinghamshire County Council

Geoff George – Nottinghamshire County Council

Rod Griffith - ARUP

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Allen Graham and Andrew Muter.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 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. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUSINESS INVESTMENT ZONES – EMPLOYMENT LAND REVIEW

Geoff George, Nottinghamshire County Council and Rod Griffith, ARUP introduced the report and gave a presentation on the conclusions of a review of employment sites in Nottinghamshire undertaken for the Nottinghamshire Business Investment Zones (NBIZ) initiative.

The review looked at 30 high level sites, how viable they were and what barriers if any there were to development. The primary focus was on employment, how many jobs could be created through the development of the sites.

A number of sites could be progressed without much intervention needed. Some sites would need input to make them viable whilst other sites might not be what the market was looking for at the moment. What resources to access and which types of sites to focus on was also discussed.

RESOLVED 2016/009

That the report be noted.

5. N2 GROWTH STRATEGY

Chris Henning, Nottingham City Council and Matt Lockley, Nottinghamshire County Council introduced the report which presented a draft strategy pulling together a number of strategies and policies into a single comprehensive strategy.

The focus of the outcomes of the strategy would be on productivity. Realistic priorities and delivery mechanisms would be set.

The next steps for the strategy as set out in the report were highlighted.

RESOLVED 2016/010

- 1) That the draft strategy be noted;
- 2) That delegated authority be granted to the N2 Chief Executives to finalise the strategy, subject to the successful conclusion of a business and stakeholder consultation process.

6. N2 BUSINESS RATE POOL

Anthony May introduced the report which set out proposals to utilise the N2 Business Rates Pool to fund specific activity relating to place marketing and a mechanism by which feasibility and business case development could be supported.

Following discussions it was determined that a detailed business case would be required before any funding could be allocated to Marketing Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and this would be prepared.

RESOLVED 2016/011

- 1) That the parameters be agreed for investing up to £1million of the Business Rates Pool in feasibility studies and business case development as outlined at paragraph 7 of the report;
- 2) That an allocation of £500,000 be made to support the 'Unlocking Growth in N2 town centres' initiative;
- 3) That an allocation of up to £30,000 be made to enable the drawing up of a business case for a joint development company to support the work of One Public Estate and the anticipated Joint Assets Board;
- 4) That the remaining unallocated funds be retained as a reserve.

7. DEVOLUTION AND COMBINED AUTHORITY

Withdrawn from the agenda.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2016/012

That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 10.38am

CHAIRMAN

**Report to the City of
Nottingham and
Nottinghamshire Economic
Prosperity Committee**

22 June 2016

Agenda Item: 5

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

GRADUATE RETENTION IN N2

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee on activities to increase graduate retention in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
2. To request that the Committee adopt graduate retention as an N2 priority outcome and monitors its progress on an annual basis.

Information and Advice

3. The N2 Labour Market Assessment indicates that between 2015 – 2022 employment growth will be around 4.5%. This equates to 22,000 net new jobs. In addition there will be around 170,000 jobs which arise due to replacement demand mainly due to retirement.
4. Forecasts point to a general rise in the jobs which require intermediate to higher level qualifications with a net increase in demand for Level 4 and above of 34% or 246,000 jobs to 2022. This is in contrast to the demand for jobs requiring Level 1 or no qualifications where there is a sharp decline in demand
5. Nottingham is home to over 60,000 students across two major universities, who account for over 20% of all people living in the area. The University of Nottingham is in the top 1% of all universities in the world and in the top 30 in the UK and Europe. Nottingham Trent University is one of the largest and most popular universities in the UK, based in the heart of Nottingham city and recognised as a modern university with an outstanding reputation for graduate employability. While both universities have strong track records for student employability, those that choose to work in N2 after graduating is lower than average.
6. Graduate retention in the Nottingham PUA¹ according to the latest data available was 27.7% in 2012/13. This is the lowest for all the core cities in England and is

¹ Primary Urban Areas (PUAs) are geographical areas developed by the ONS and the Centre for Cities that attempt to express the "built-up" physical extent of a city, rather than individual local authority areas. For English cities, they are aggregated from groups of Unitary Authorities/Municipal Districts and Local Authority Districts. For Nottingham, the districts used correspond with

influenced by several factors including the number of students at both universities who originate from London and the south east and the relatively low number of students from Nottingham and Nottinghamshire who go to the local universities.

7. Nottingham PUA has a high SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) base, with 98% of businesses in the area employing 49 people or less. It also currently has a lower number of graduate employment opportunities compared to other Core Cities, though the local economy is projected to need higher skills going forward.
8. One key challenge is support for smaller businesses who want to grow their skills base to recruit graduates. Locally commissioned research has confirmed that there is a market failure in which SME's either lack the understanding and/or resources of how to recruit and retain graduates and graduate awareness of the opportunities available with local SME's is low.
9. Nottingham PUA benefits from good transport links, low commuting times and low living costs, however the Great Debate on Graduate Retention² found that many students are unaware of these benefits.

Graduate Retention Partnership

10. The N2 Skills and Employment Board identified graduate retention as a priority for employers. In order to ensure that future employer skills needs are met, a partnership has been established to develop and steer initiatives which will increase graduate retention in the city and county and to attract graduates who previously lived in Nottinghamshire to return and gain employment after graduation. The partnership members are Nottingham Trent University, The University of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and the N2 SEB Champion for Graduates Boots UK. The partnership is aligned with the N2 SEB priorities and builds on two successful pilot activities led by Boots UK.
11. The Steering group has developed an action plan which has three priorities
 - To secure commitment from N2 employers to create additional graduate level employment opportunities and to increase the proportion of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's workforce that have higher skills.
 - To increase the graduate retention rate by influencing students and graduates to consider Nottingham and Nottinghamshire as a destination for post graduate employment opportunities.
 - To create a single campaign to reflect the commitment of the partnership to increase graduate retention rate and to be able to assess the impact of the Partnerships efforts.

the 'Greater Nottingham' area used by Nottingham City Council in their analysis, comprising Nottingham City UA and Rushcliffe, Broxtowe and Gedling LADs. Accurate figures for Nottinghamshire are not available.

² https://ntu.ac.uk/news_events/document_uploads/185955.pdf

FUSE Professional Initiative

12. Both universities already undertake a wide range of activity to promote graduate employment, and both local authorities are working with them in partnership to add value and promote local opportunities an example of this joint work is highlighted below
13. The Graduate Steering Group has recently commissioned Gradcore a social enterprise who have a proven methodology for developing graduate jobs in SME's. This is funded and supported by both local authorities and the two Nottingham universities.
14. Gradcore have been commissioned to deliver FUSE, a graduate and industry professional initiative which will see them create 30 graduate jobs with SME's in the city and county who are not accustomed to recruiting recent graduates. They will deliver employability skills to a cohort of at least 300 graduates as they pass through the process and every graduate gets feedback on their performance as they go through the application stage, video interviews, assessment centres and final interview.
15. The jobs created will be for a minimum of six months but it is expected that they will last longer as previously where Gradcore have used this model the job lasts for at least 12 months with many graduates becoming permanent employees.

Graduate Retention and SMEs

16. The two universities have developed their curriculums to embed employability activities into all their courses. This can be anything from summer placements to a year in industry as part of the course.
17. The universities have also recognised the opportunities that local SMEs can offer to their undergraduates and graduates and are working to increase the visibility and take up of these opportunities. The universities are building their relationships with local SMEs and the Committee could consider how they could help to enable these relationships across the county.

Graduate Retention and Local Authorities

18. Local authorities in N2 will have an interest in recruiting and retaining graduates within their own organisations. Partners will recognise the issue of an ageing workforce and succession planning in areas which require specific technical skills and qualifications. The Committee may wish a future report to focus on joint activities to understand the best practice examples that are taking place in N2 and to determine what additional activities are needed.

Other Options Considered

19. Doing nothing to improve graduate retention was not considered as improving the skills base in the area is a priority for all partners.

Reasons for Recommendations

20. Forecasts indicate that the number of jobs requiring Level 4 or above qualifications will increase by 34% by 2022. To maintain and increase productivity in N2 this demand will need to be managed.
21. Nottingham PUA has a large student population while employers in the area project an increase in the need for higher level skills. There is an opportunity to meet these needs by supporting graduates already in the area to live and work.
22. N2's employment base is dominated by SME's. Research has shown that some SME's and a majority of graduates lack the understanding of what each can offer. Creating opportunities for the two to come together through work placements and jobs will break down barriers and increase graduate retention in local SMEs.
23. N2 partners with an ageing workforce will need to consider how to succession plan to ensure they have the skilled workforce required to deliver their statutory services.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Economic Prosperity Committee:

- a) Notes the contents of the report and agree that Graduate Retention in N2 be a priority for the Economic Prosperity Committee.
- b) Agree to receive a future report on the activities of N2 partners to increase graduate retention
- c) Request Nottingham University and Nottingham Trent University give a joint presentation of their activities to retain graduates in N2.
- d) Agree to receive an annual report on progress made in retaining graduates in N2

Allen Graham
Chief Executive Rushcliffe Borough Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

[Page 10 of 26](#)

Fiona Anderson
Senior Economic Development Officer
0115 9772688

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

22nd June 2016

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE FUTURE OF APPRENTICESHIPS

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Economic Prosperity Committee of the major changes to the funding and delivery models of apprenticeships within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. It is also to identify how this may affect public sector organisations, along with the private sector, and make recommendations to the Economic Prosperity Committee of suggested next steps to develop a coordinated response to the change.

Information and Advice

2. As part of the Government's plan to increase the quality and quantity of apprenticeships to reach a figure of 3 million apprenticeships by 2020, a levy is being introduced to help fund a proposed step change. It is proposed that all employers with a pay bill amounting to more than £3 million shall be compelled to pay the levy, which the Government proposes to be of use to pay for the future training of apprenticeships.

Costs and Implications to Employers

3. It is intended by government that the levy will be charged at 0.5% of an employer's total pay bill on all pay bills over £3 million. It is also proposed that the levy will be collected monthly through PAYE system. All employers would be given a levy allowance of £15,000 for each tax year. An employer with a total pay bill of £5 million would pay £10,000 under the levy, with the figure initially calculated at £25,000 ($0.5\% \times £5 \text{ million}$) being reduced to £10,000 due to the allowance. The levy funds will be placed in a 'pot' which can be accessed by those paying the levy. It is proposed that this will be achieved via an online digital account and take the form of online vouchers. The government is proposing to apply an additional 10% top up amount to all funds (e.g. every £1 is increased to £1.10). The training allowance must be spent within 18 months.
4. Currently employers must use their levy funds to pay for training of their own apprenticeships only, this is currently a potential weakness and disadvantage of the proposed system, as it will result in pressure being placed upon the large employers to secure apprenticeships within their own businesses rather than assist their suppliers in up skilling or narrowing skill shortage gaps within small and medium enterprise priority sectors. However the Government is currently having a discussion regarding the potential pros and cons for the levy, and this is an aspect where representation has been made to enable levy paying employers to extend their

allowance to fund training for apprenticeships in the employers' supply chain. More information on this is expected in June.

5. Funds can only be used to pay for training costs, and not salary, therefore it remains to be seen if businesses will transfer existing posts into apprenticeships in exchange for access to the levy, or create new apprenticeship posts.
6. Employers will not be able to spend an unlimited amount of money on a single apprentice. Funding bands will be set which limit the amount of levy funds an employer can spend on training for an individual apprentice. The band will vary according to the level and type of apprenticeship (for example, more expensive, higher quality training is likely to be in a band with a higher limit).
7. The public sector is included in the levy payments but has also been set a target by Government of a minimum 2.3% apprenticeship starts each year (calculated from headcount) where they have 250 or more employees. Across the N2 Local Authorities there are approximately 32,753 members of staff, which would result in approximately a minimum target of 753 apprenticeship starts per year. If other N2 public sector bodies e.g. fire, police, etc. were included this figure would rise to around 1,712 starts. It is currently proposed that this data would be published nationally, to provide an incentive to meet our obligations. Local Authorities are also encouraged to aim to achieve the aims of the '5% club' – a business-led campaign for organisations to employ 5% of their workforce as apprentices, sponsored students or graduates.

Authority	Employees	Apprenticeship Target	
		2.3%	5%
Bassetlaw	442	10.1	22.1
Broxtowe	775	17.8	38.75
Gedling	496	11.4	24.8
Newark and Sherwood	424	9.7	21.2
Nottingham	9,228	212.2	461.4
Nottinghamshire	19,818	455.8	990.9
Rushcliffe	280	6.4	14
Ashfield	492	11.3	24.6
Mansfield	798	18.3	39.9

8. These proposals could provide a unique opportunities for the N2 Local Authorities to work together to meet joint obligations and future demands:
 - In the short term Local Authorities could simply aim to collaborate through implementation of shared apprenticeship standards, as well as potentially join procurement and workforce strategies.
 - A medium to long term goal highlighted by the Local Government Association (LGA) is for the ability contributions to the levy to be pooled locally, enabling local partners to commission provision based upon local employer demand. This is something that is recommended the Committee support and actively lobbies for.

- Longer term a potential option would be to create a central support or training hub with the capacity to help meet the public sector skills and productivity gap at a local level. The Jobs Hub created and run by Nottingham City Council has plans to expand to incorporate the whole N2 area and could possibly be a suitable platform to build a collaborative working arrangement.
9. The target set by Government will rely upon a challenge to the commonly accepted wider view, that apprenticeships must generally be better designed, marketed and promoted – misconceptions are still often placed by schools and parents and the worth of apprenticeships, which must be challenged, and that apprenticeships are only for young people and school leavers.

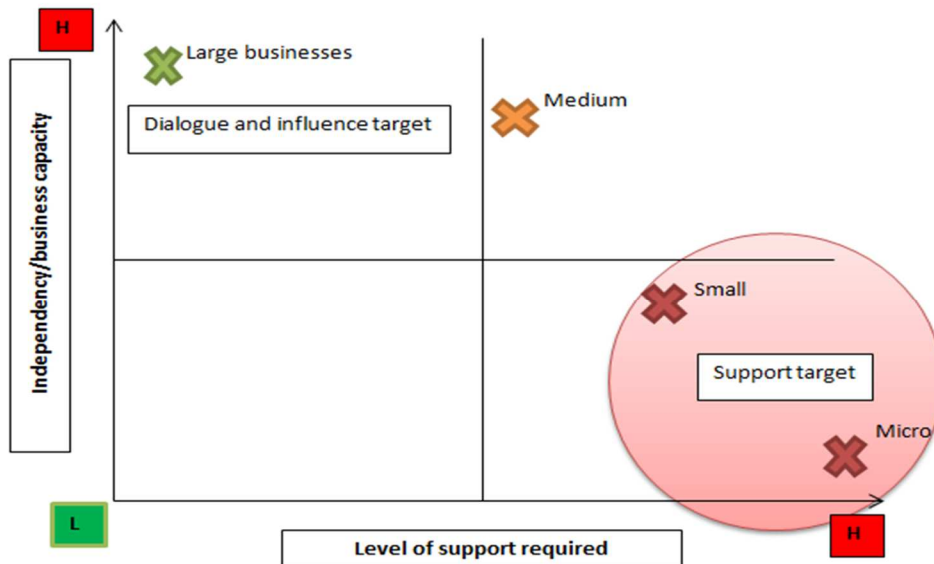
Future Skills Requirements

10. Between 2017 and 2022 across the D2N2 area the priority areas within the public sector such as health and social care are predicted to grow strongly. Within the private sector construction is projected to have the greatest growth, as well as wholesale and retail, motor trade and food services. In the future, apprenticeships could be specifically developed to support these growing areas, and it will be important that transferrable skills are built within the schemes to enable career sustainability.
11. If Local Authorities were able to pool their resources they would represent a key local employer, which the ability to influence provision, which we could then use to shape the type of apprenticeships that are provided so they meet local needs.

Private Sector Impacts

12. In the private sector the levy could affect approximately 660 business, making up around 1.7% of total N2 business.
13. Private business, especially larger organisation that will pay the levy will be likely to be less in need of support from Local Authorities, as they may possess a commercial driver to use and implement their levy funds, as any unused funds will disappear after 18 months. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) however run the risk of being left behind by the levy, unless they believe it is easy to access and will add value to their business. There is a danger that the creation of a two-tier system whereby SMEs are the 'less desirable' option for potential apprenticeships may occur.
14. After the initial implementation of the levy, it is currently proposed that SMEs will be invited to also use the online digital service to pay for their apprenticeship training, despite not paying the levy. Support may be required by Local Authorities to support the use of the digital service, and also support the promotion and marketing to SMEs to ensure they maximise the resources available.
15. The potential has also be raised by Local Authorities, that any unspent levy should be made available to invest locally to support the SMEs, to assist them with training apprentices.
16. Within the N2 area there are vastly more SMEs than larger scale organisations. 82% off all businesses in the county area are defined as 'micro' companies, with 15% 'small' and 3% 'medium', with only 0.4% as 'large' businesses. The city is geared slightly more towards larger

organisations, but still consists of 74% 'micro', 20% 'small', 5% 'medium' and 1% 'large'. The chart below shows how big business are by their nature less likely to need support, and that SMEs are more likely to need support by Local Authorities, however the levy is aimed at larger organisations of which there are comparatively few:



Risks

17. Risk has been identified with the potential for organisations to try and 'game' the system by taking on new apprenticeships each year as cheap labour with no intention of end employment.
18. Some larger businesses have indicated that they may simply not interact with the new system, and write off their levy fees as an extra tax rather than use it towards the training of apprentices.
19. Fears have been raised by businesses that the given timeframe is too soon, and that they may struggle to sufficiently plan for the new changes.
20. The introduction of the levy has left as many questions as answers, a number of which are being consulted upon by Government with more information to follow

Unanswered Questions	Approach to Answer
What happens to unspent levy?	Lobby for public sector to be able to spend and divest towards SMEs
Funding limits available to each apprenticeship levels.	More information to be released in June.
Provisional level of Government support available to non-levy paying employers.	More information to be released in June.
Eligibility over who specifically apprenticeship training funds can be spent on.	More information to be released in June.

Who can provide apprenticeship training and how to set up your own organisation to deliver training.	More information to be released in June/review of local provision of training within the N2 area.
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Statutory and Policy Implications

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That a detail report be prepared highlighting:-
 - a) current provision of apprenticeships across Nottinghamshire Authorities
 - b) opportunities/choices for future provision of training within the Public Sector
 - c) Analysis of current areas to prioritise skills gaps
- 2) That the Committee endorses that a strategy should include measurable targets for each of the levels of apprenticeships, including higher apprenticeships.

Allen Graham
Chief Executive, Rushcliffe Borough Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
 Jonathan Spinks, Rushcliffe Borough Council.

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.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All



22nd June 2016

Agenda Item: 7

**REPORT OF THE BUSINESS GROWTH MANAGER, GROWTH HUB,
NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

D2N2 GROWTH HUB UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update EPC Members on the progress and current status of the D2N2 Growth Hub.

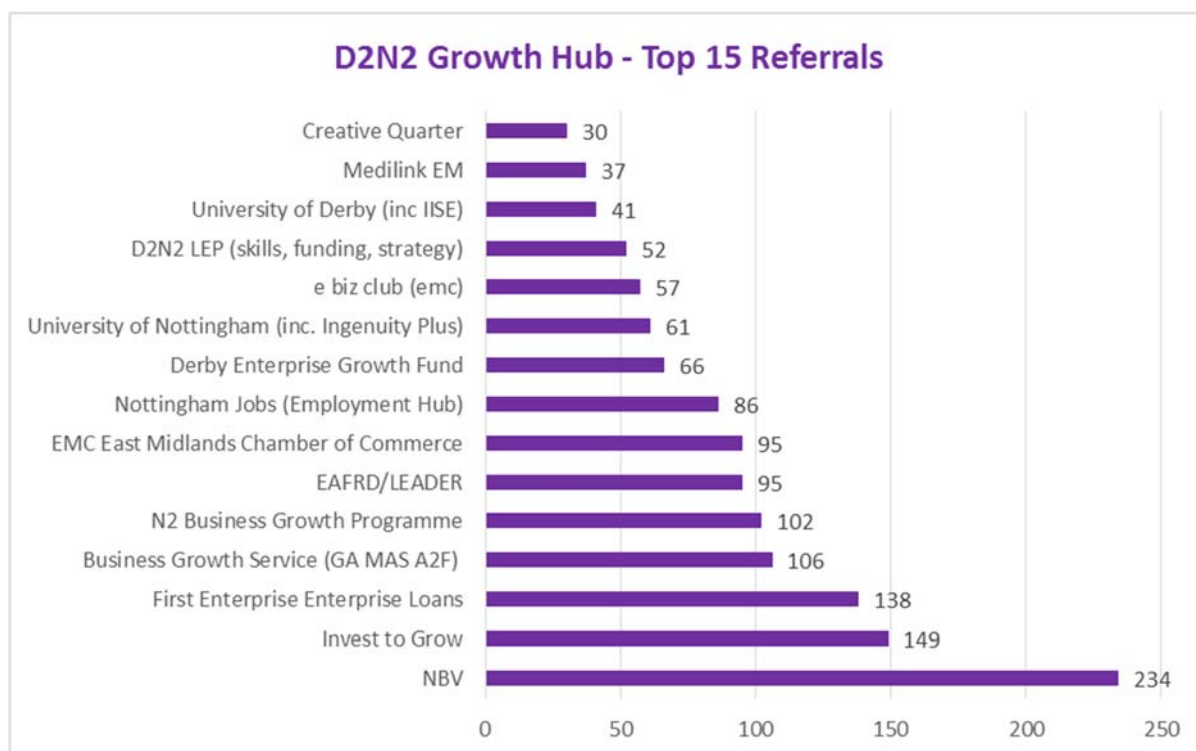
Background

2. The D2N2 Growth Hub was set up in December 2015 as part of a national network of Growth Hubs based on the LEP network. Its role is to ensure that there is maximum awareness and take-up of business support in the business community. Numerous pieces of research have shown that those businesses that are prepared to accept external advice and support are twice as likely to grow as those who do not. The Growth Hub therefore aims to increase the number of businesses receiving support and advice, and hence contribute to an increase in business growth. In the period up to June 2016 the Growth Hub has consisted of a core team of two business advisors based at D2N2 who have operated a Helpline service for businesses. This has been supplemented by staff in Economic Development Teams in Local Authorities who have followed up calls to Helpline Service with face to face contact with businesses.
3. Since its inception in December 2015 up to 31st May 2016 the D2N2 Growth Hub has dealt with 2,378 business enquiries. The Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire split is:
 - Derbyshire County Council Area: 895
 - Derbyshire City Council Area: 212
 - Nottinghamshire County Council Area: 436
 - Nottingham City Council Area: 650
 - Enquiries from outside D2N2 (passed to other Growth Hubs): 185
 - Total: 2,378

4. A more detailed breakdown of the N2 business enquires is as follows:

Local Authority	Total Businesses in LA Area	Businesses Assisted Dec 14 – May 16	%age of business population
Ashfield	2,700	57	2.1%
Bassetlaw	3,775	61	1.65%
Broxtowe	3,065	56	1.82%
Gedling	3,255	49	1.50%
Mansfield	2,545	64	2.51%
Newark & Sherwood	4,585	74	1.61%
Nottingham City	8,075	651	8.06%
Rushcliffe	4,860	74	1.58%
Total	32,860	1,086	3.3%

5. These figures clearly demonstrate that while Growth Hub penetration has been excellent in Nottingham City, the performance has scope for improvement elsewhere. It is intended that this will be addressed in the coming months, however it is at least partially due to the higher level of resourcing in the business support function within Nottingham City Council which means that there is greater capacity to engage with businesses.
6. The Growth Hub is primarily a referral service which uses its knowledge of the available business support to refer businesses into the most appropriate form of support for their needs. Currently the top 15 referral sources are:



7. It is notable that the most heavily used referral source is NBV who provide business start-up services, and that three of the top five referral sources are access to finance programmes (Invest to Grow, First Enterprise Loans, N2 Business Growth).

8. Visibility and usage of the Growth Hub has been on a consistent upward trajectory since its inception (evidenced by website hits, twitter followers, business contacts) indicating both growing awareness of its existence and growing confidence in its services. A recent independent Customer Satisfaction Survey (based on a sample of 200 of the Growth Hub's clients) produced the following headline results:
- **79%** of clients rated the service excellent or good
 - **88%** of clients would recommend the service to another business
 - **59%** of clients have taken positive action as a result of interaction with the Growth Hub
9. The future direction of the D2N2 Growth Hub has now been determined through the recent news that a bid for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) which was co-ordinated by Nottingham City Council has been successful. Using match funding contributions totalling £1.36M from the D2N2 LEP, East Midlands Chamber and a number of Local Authorities including both Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, a further £1.36M of ESIF funding has been secured giving the Growth Hub overall funding of £2.72M. This will:
- Secure the future of the Growth Hub until 31st March 2019
 - Allow the current core capacity to be increased to three advisors plus a dedicated business finance advisor – this will allow a more proactive approach and in particular a shift in emphasis to focus on supporting growth businesses with less emphasis on support for start-ups
 - Fund the appointment of a full time Growth Hub Manager (to be provided by Nottingham City Council)
 - Fund enhanced local services in both Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to increase the capacity for face to face contact with businesses
10. Overall the D2N2 Growth Hub has so far performed satisfactorily in its role and the ESIF funding guarantees its future operation (with some useful enhancements) for the next three years. A priority in the coming months will be to increase penetration in the Nottinghamshire County Council area which currently lags behind the Nottingham City Council Area in terms of the percentage of the business population engaged.

Statutory and Policy implications

11. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the N2 EPC notes the D2N2 Growth Hub Update and that a further update is provided in December 2016.

Simon Hall

Business Growth Manager, Nottingham City Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Simon Hall, Business Growth Manager, Nottingham City Council Tel: 0115 764225

Background Papers

Nottinghamshire Growth Plan

Nottingham Growth Plan

D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan

D2N2 Devolution Prospectus

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

22 June 2016

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2016.

Information and Advice

2. The Economic Prosperity Committee maintains a rolling work programme which assists the management of the Committee's agenda, the scheduling of business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each Committee meeting. Any member of the Committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
3. The attached work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.
4. The work programme already includes a number of reports on items suggested by the Committee.

Other Options Considered

5. None.

Reason for Recommendation

6. To assist the Committee in preparing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. 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 below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Committee's work programme be noted, and consideration be given to any changes which the Committee wishes to make.

Anthony May
Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Sara Allmond (0115) 977 3794

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME

Note: all meetings start at 09:30 and are followed by the N2 Leaders' meeting.

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>For Decision or Information?</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Report Author</u>
22 July 2016				
HS2 Growth Strategy	To inform Committee about the developing Growth Strategy related to the proposed East Midlands Hub station at Toton	Information	David Ralph?	Andrew Pritchard?
Nottinghamshire Innovation Centres – review and future plans	To update Committee on progress with the Nottinghamshire Innovation Centre Network and to advise on future plans for their development	Information	Mandy Ramm	Mandy Ramm
23rd September 2016				
25th November 2016				
23rd December 2016				
24th February 2017				
24th March 2017				
23rd June 2017				

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>For Decision or Information?</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Report Author</u>
21st July 2017				

Last updated 10 May 2016