



## **THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Friday, 20 June 2014

**Time:** 11.30 am (Please note that there is a pre-meeting for Leaders and Chief Executives at 10.30 am in the Len Maynard Suite)

**Place:** Len Maynard Suite - Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham NG1 5ND

**Councillors are requested to attend the above meeting to transact the following business**

**Glen O'Connell, Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Nottingham City Council Secretary**

**Constitutional Services Officer:** Angelika Kaufhold  
**Direct Dial:** 0115 8764296

### **AGENDA**

### **Pages**

- |          |  |         |
|----------|--|---------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>   |         |
| <b>2</b> | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</b>   |         |
| <b>3</b> | <b>MINUTES</b><br>Last meeting held on 16 May 2014 for confirmation  | 3 - 8   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>FINALISING THE D2N2 EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL INVESTMENT FUND STRATEGY</b><br>Report of Ian Curryer, Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council   | 9 - 34  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT</b><br>Report of Nicki Jenkins, Head of Economic Programme and Skills at Nottingham City Council and Matt Lockley, Team Manager, Economic Development, Nottinghamshire County Council | 35 - 46 |
| <b>6</b> | <b>BROADBAND - OPTIONS FOR MATCHING THE SUPERFAST EXTENSION PROGRAMME (SEP)</b><br>Report of Matt Lockley, Economic Development Team Manager at Nottinghamshire County Council                                 | 47 - 50 |

IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE ON DECLARING AN INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONSTITUTIONAL SERVICES OFFICER SHOWN ABOVE, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MEETING

CITIZENS ATTENDING MEETINGS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING AT THE MAIN BOX OFFICE RECEPTION

**THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Rufford Suite, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham on 16 May 2014 from 10.04 am - 11.17 am**

- |   |                                |                           |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ | Councillor Chris Baron         | (Ashfield)                |
| ✓ | Councillor Roger Blaney        | (Newark and Sherwood)     |
| ✓ | Councillor Graham Chapman      | (Nottingham City) (Chair) |
| ✓ | Councillor John Clarke         | (Gedling)                 |
| ✓ | Councillor Neil Clarke         | (Rushcliffe)              |
|   | Mayor Tony Egginton            | (Mansfield) (Vice Chair)  |
|   | Councillor Milan Radulovic MBE | (Broxtowe)                |
| ✓ | Councillor Simon Greaves       | (Bassetlaw)               |
| ✓ | Councillor Alan Rhodes         | (Nottinghamshire)         |

✓ indicates present at meeting

**Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Councillor Ian Tyler | - Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture, Broxtowe Borough Council        |
| Ian Curryer          | - Chief Executive, Nottingham City Council                                      |
| Glen O'Connell       | - Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Nottingham City Council            |
| Anthony May          | - Corporate Director and Deputy Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council |
| Dan Swain            | - Head of Corporate Services, Rushcliffe Borough Council                        |
| Neil Taylor          | - Bassetlaw District Council  |
| Ruth Hyde OBE        | - Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council                                     |
| John Robinson        | - Chief Executive, Gedling Borough Council                                      |
| Ruth Marlow          | - Chief Executive, Mansfield District Council                                   |
| Andrew Muter         | - Chief Executive, Newark and Sherwood District Council                         |
| Phillip Marshall     | - Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council                                    |
| David Ralph          | - Chief Executive, D2N2   |
| Peter Richardson     | - Chair of D2N2   |
| Chris Henning        | - Director for Economic Development, Nottingham City Council                    |
| Matthew Lockley      | - Economic Development Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council                  |
| James Schrodel       | - Policy Officer, Nottingham City Council                                       |
| Rav Kalsi            | - Constitutional Services Officer, Nottingham City Council                      |
| Rickena Bramwell     | - Constitutional Services, Nottingham City Council                              |

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mayor Tony Egginton – other Council business.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

### **3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

### **4 THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE'S PRIORITIES**

Ian Curryer, Chief Executive for Nottingham City Council, presented the report, outlining the scope of three short presentations on the Committee's more immediate priorities, including the proposed changes to legislation on combined authorities, European funding and the role of N2 and the effective management of the Committee. Consideration of a report on scrutiny arrangements for the Committee will be deferred to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.**

### **5 COMBINED AUTHORITIES - PROPOSED CHANGES TO LEGISLATION**

Ian Curryer, Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council, delivered the presentation, informing the Committee on the proposed changes to legislation governing combined authorities, highlighting the following information:

- (a) a combined authority would be a new legal structure created by a statutory instrument. Following its formation, a combined authority can undertake economic development and transport functions for its area and levy its member authorities;
- (b) the Government is advocating the formation of combined authorities in line with Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas. Combined authorities have been established in the following areas: Sheffield City, the north east (which includes Newcastle and Gateshead), Greater Manchester, Liverpool City and West Yorkshire;
- (c) a recent letter from Ed Miliband to all local government Leaders outlined Labour's objectives for a radical devolution of economic power to unlock potential growth across the country. Proposals include strengthening the role of LEPs with a single LEP coterminous with city and county regions and putting in place stronger political governance to drive economic leadership through combined authorities or economic prosperity boards;
- (d) in order to create a combined authority agreement amongst all local authorities would be needed. The process, under current legislation, includes a governance review to establish the following: the exercise of statutory functions relating to transport in the area, the effectiveness and efficiency of transport in the area, the exercise of statutory functions relating to economic development and regeneration in the area, and economic conditions in the area;
- (e) the Government published its consultation on changes to the legislation governing the creation of combined authorities on 30 April which will remain

open until 24 June. The proposed changes would allow for county councils to be members for only part of their geography and for district councils to join a combined authority separately. Proposals also allow for non-contiguous membership;

- (f) in relation to the concurrency of powers under the proposed changes, it is plausible for a range of powers to sit with the combined authority but for a detailed remit to remain at a district or local level. These arrangements would ordinarily form part of a governance review and be submitted to Government for final approval.

Following questions and comments from the Committee, the following information was provided:

- (g) Derby has already commissioned a governance review for a Derby and Derbyshire combined authority based on county boundaries;
- (h) at this stage it is not clear what additional powers would be devolved to Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire should they form a combined authority. In light of the general election next year, it would be useful to have early discussions with both the Government and Opposition to clarify what additional powers would be devolved should a combined authority be formed covering the N2 area;
- (i) further research would need to identify any successful practices of the five established combined authorities, what additional powers would be devolved to a combined authority and the potential benefits of its formation.

## **RESOLVED to**

- (1) note the contents of the report and that Nottingham City Council would research the rationale behind establishing a combined authority, with a particular focus on what additional powers could be devolved to a combined authority and report back to the Committee on 20 June 2014.**

## **6 EUROPEAN FUNDING AND N2 ROLE**

Chris Henning, Director of Economic Development at Nottingham City Council, presented the item, updating the Committee on European funding and N2's role in the funding process.

There is €250 million of funding available for 2014 – 20 and the D2N2 LEP is establishing a strategy via LEP processes to secure parts of this. The strategy will look at the allocation of funding for both D2 and N2 and what is needed to secure the right allocation.

Following questions and comments from the Committee, the following information was provided:

- (a) in order to ensure that N2 does not miss out of the allocation of European funding, there needs to be a clear decision on the agreed process before the funds become available in December 2014;
- (b) the Government has now agreed the formal submission to the European Union (EU) on the management of the funds. Any D2N2 scheme must be compliant with the code of conduct. There is a paper going to the LEP Board on 3 June 2014 to establish the process, which will then be circulated for wider consultation;
- (c) the Government is expected to release a statement, imminently, outlining what is required in order to be compliant with the code of conduct. The Committee will form part of the process but not the decision making process. N2 Chief Executives will seek to establish a process on how to feed into this and report back to the Committee on 20 June 2014.

**RESOLVED to**

- (1) note the contents of the update;**
- (2) authorise N2 Chief Executives to present proposals on how the Economic Prosperity Committee can feed into the decision making process on European funding.**

**7 EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE**

Andrew Muter, Chief Executive of Newark and Sherwood District Council, delivered the presentation on the effective management of the Economic Prosperity Committee, highlighting the following:

- (a) the Committee's support systems have been inherited from Nottinghamshire Leaders' Group which no longer seems appropriate in light of the Committee's ability to make recommendations on funding decisions and N2's strategic direction;
- (b) to mitigate the complexities around the current landscape of groups and sub-groups, an officer review will be established to look at the following areas: setting and agreeing agendas, horizon scanning for upcoming issues and ensuring they are allocated to future meetings so members know when key future issues will be discussed, developing an agreed work programme which tracks and implements Committee decisions with clear responsibilities, building in updates to the Committee from other groups;
- (c) an officer review will highlight how the committee engages with a variety of bodies such as, D2N2's Board, LEPOG and N2's Employment and Skills Board.

**RESOLVED to**

- (1) note the contents of the presentation;**

- (2) **authorise Andrew Muter, John Robinson, Allen Graham and Ruth Hyde to establish an officer review on the processes around the Economic Prosperity Committee, including the level of resources required for it, with a particular focus on the following areas:**
- (a) **setting and agreeing agendas**
  - (b) **horizon scanning for upcoming issues and ensuring they are allocated to future meetings so members know when key future issues will be discussed**
  - (c) **developing an agreed work programme which tracks and implements Committee decisions with clear responsibilities**
  - (d) **building in updates to the Committee from other groups**

**and to report back at the next available Committee;**

## **8 ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE - SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Chair informed the Committee that this item had been deferred to the next Committee meeting on 20 June 2014.

## **9 BROADBAND - SUPERFAST EXTENSION PROGRAMME (SEP)**

Anthony May, Corporate Director and Deputy Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council presented the report updating the Committee on the delivery of the Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) to broadband delivery which is expected to extend fibre broadband beyond 95% coverage and provide connectivity to the most isolated communities. The Committee previously considered an update on Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire at its meeting on 21 March 2014 (minute 14).

Nottinghamshire's allocation, including the city of Nottingham, is £2.63 million, which will need to be matched from local sources. The deadline for applications to the SEP is 30 June 2014 and a firm match-funding package must be evidenced by this stage.

### **RESOLVED to**

- (1) **defer a decision on whether to under-write the formal submission to the Government for the Superfast Extension Programme for £2.63 million to allow officers to explore further alternative funding avenues;**
- (2) **authorise officers to ascertain whether funding for broadband could be secured via the Local Growth Deal.**

### **Reasons for decisions**

The submission of a formal application to the Government for a superfast extension programme requires Nottinghamshire County Council to provide evidence that match funding commitments are in place. Alternative sources of funding are required for 2015/16 given that funding is not yet assured. In light of this, further clarity is needed on what processes are in place to offset the potential risk in not securing Local Growth Funds for 2015/16.

Other options considered

Whilst the under-write is required for the submission of the application by the 30 June 2014 deadline, every effort will continue to be made to secure the required funds through alternative sources, such as the European Regional Development Fund.

**10     CHANGE OF DATE**

**RESOLVED to change the date of the Committee currently scheduled for 19 September 2014 to 26 September 2014.**



**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC  
PROSPERITY COMMITTEE– 20 JUNE 2014**

<b>Subject:</b>	Finalising the D2N2 European Structural Investment Fund Strategy		
<b>Presenting authority / representative):</b>	Ian Curryer, Chief Executive, Nottingham City Council		
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Chris Henning <a href="mailto:chris.henning@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">chris.henning@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>		
<b>Key Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Subject to call-in</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>Value of decision:</b> N/A at this stage			
<b>Authorities affected:</b> All Nottinghamshire local authorities.		<b>Date of consultation with relevant authorities:</b> 6 June 2014	
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities):</b>			
<p>a) D2N2 LEP is required to submit the final version of its Strategy for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). This Strategy sets out ambitions for the use of ESIF in D2N2 (worth some 244m Euros), investment priorities and the structure of underpinning programmes, a financial plan, targets and governance arrangements</p> <p>b) The LEP Board, at its meeting on 3 June, supported the current draft and agreed a number of recommendations, covering: Governance, approach to European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and Financial re-profiling</p> <p>c) The LEP is now required to develop an Annual Implementation Plan (including a project pipeline). In order to ensure that the citizens and businesses of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire benefit from the ESIF, the EPC should ensure that it plays an effective role in developing this plan and subsequent arrangements.</p>			
<b>Exempt information:</b>			
None.			
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>			
That the Economic Prosperity Committee agrees to:			
<p>a) Note the recommendations on the ESIF Strategy agreed by LEP Board;</p> <p>b) Ask Chief Executives to develop recommendations to inform the EPC's view on the Annual Implementation Plan (including management arrangements and a project pipeline) which will underpin this Strategy.</p>			

## **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 D2N2 submitted its Strategy for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) on 31 January 2014. It now faces two principal tasks:
- a. Responding to Government comments on the ESIF Strategy and revising as necessary
  - b. Preparing to implement the strategy, including an 'Implementation Plan' by October 2014 with a view to commencing spend in 2015
- 1.2 In its feedback Government asked the LEP to revise its strategy so as to ensure compliance with EU and national guidance. In its meeting on 3 June, the LEP Board was therefore asked to approve the following recommendations – which it did, in order to ensure that the Strategy can

be approved by Government. The relevant LEP Board Paper is attached as an annex.

1.3 The recommendations considered by the LEP Board were as follows (reference to attached annex in brackets):

1.3.1 **Overall Governance** – D2N2 will establish a dedicated D2N2 ESIF Programme Board and the D2N2 Board will agree the membership template, nominate the Chair of the Programme Board and invite the Managing Authority to nominate a representative to be the Vice-Chair (paras 4.1 – 4.6)

1.3.2 **Role of Partners and Statement of Principles on Governance for D2N2 ESIF** – the attached annex (paras 4.7 – 4.13) sets out the proposed role of partners, including local authority joint committees and principles of Governance.

1.3.3 **Agreement of approach to European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)** – The allocation of the EAFRD was confirmed by DEFRA late in the strategy development process and was therefore not fully considered by D2N2. Para 4.14 and 4.15 Appendix C of the attached annex sets out the recommended position.

1.3.4 **Reduction in ESF and ERDF allocation** – There has been a net reduction in the D2N2 allocation of ESF and ERDF from 249.7m Euros to 244m Euros. It was proposed to reduce all relevant allocations of ESF and ERDF by thematic area in equal proportion (approximately 2%) so that the balance of funding between priorities does not change. It was also proposed that spend will be re-profiled to accommodate the reduction in spend in the final year of the programme. (Para 4.16)

1.4 The LEP Board took the view that compliance was necessary to secure funding at this stage and all recommendations were agreed.

1.5 The LEP is now required to produce an Annual Implementation Plan which will contain detail of the management arrangements and a project pipeline; it is envisaged that this will take place between July and October 2014. The Committee will want to ensure that this plan reflects its views. It is proposed that Chief Executives of member authorities are asked to develop recommendations for the EPC's consideration in order to feed into this process. These recommendations should take account of points raised in discussion on this paper.

## **2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

2.1 An Annex sets out the relevant LEP Board paper which includes the recommendations above which was considered at the Board meeting.

## **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Not complying with the requests made by central Government to revise the ESIF Strategy. This was considered too risky, as non-compliance could mean that funding would not be made available. See, in particular, attached letter of 27 May from Mark Foley (DCLG) to David Ralph (Chief Executive, D2N2 LEP) on ESIF Programme Governance.

**4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

4.1 The output of this work will have implications for distribution and management of the European Structural Investment Fund 2014-2020 worth 244m Euros. However, this current decision does not have immediate implications for funding.

**5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)**

5.1 None.

**6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 N/A

**7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

Has the equality impact been assessed?

- (a) not needed (report does not contain proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions, financial decisions or decisions about implementation of policies development outside the Council) ☐
- (b) No
- (c) Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached ☐

Due regard should be given to the equality implications identified in any attached EIA.

**8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)**

LEP Board Paper 3.2, 3 June 2014.

**9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT**

D2N2 EU Structural and Investment Funds Strategy, May 2014.

**10 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT**

None.

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## D2N2 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD REPORT

<b>DATE:</b>	3rd June 2014
<b>REPORT LEAD:</b>	Matthew Wheatley
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	3.2
<b>TITLE:</b>	European Structural and Investment Fund Strategy (ESIF) - Update

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 D2N2 submitted its '[Final' D2N2 Strategy for European Structural and Investment Funds \(ESIF\)](#) on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014. D2N2 now faces two principle tasks in relation to ESIF;
  - a. Responding to Government Comments on the ESIF and revising as necessary by the end of May 2014
  - b. Making appropriate preparations to implement the strategy, including preparing and 'Implementation Plan' by October 2014 with a view to beginning spend in 2015.
- 1.2 Further, on 17th April, Government confirmed ESF and ERDF funding allocations by LEP area. Most LEP allocations were reduced in line with the slightly reduced overall allocation from the European Commission to the UK. The D2N2 LEP allocation was further slightly reduced because the presence of Derbyshire Dales District in both D2N2 and SCR LEP was not reflected in the original allocation methodology. The net effect is a reduction in the D2N2 ESF and ERDF allocation from €249.7m to €244m.

### 2. GOVERNMENT COMMENTS ON THE D2N2 ESIF STRATEGY

- 2.1 Government responded to the January draft of the D2N2 ESIF Strategy through 2 letters, one 'general' to all LEPs, issued on 18<sup>th</sup> March and one specific to D2N2, issued on 20<sup>th</sup> March. These letters have been previously circulated to officers and Board and are attached as Appendix A. The Chair and Growth Plan manager have since met officials from CLG and BIS to discuss their feedback in more detail. The Chair and Chief Executive have also met CLG officials to discuss D2N2's proposed approach to ESIF Fund governance and a letter has been received from CLG specifically on this issue. (see Appendix D)
- 2.2 Most of the comments raised by Government in its feedback relate to contextual or drafting issues, require clarification of approach or require the presentation of further evidence to support the already agreed strategic position, such as in relation to allocations to support transport infrastructure, flood defence and broadband. The attached Final ESIF Strategy (Appendix E) has been updated accordingly, updated the document accordingly, including reviewing language and updating statistics for consistency with the Strategic Economic Plan. However, there are a few areas in which the Board is asked to confirm its support for the approach set out in the updated draft.
- 2.3 Key Issues on which a steer by Board is requested include;
  - a. Governance Framework
  - b. Approach to EAFRD
  - c. Financial re-profiling
- 2.4 More information on these issues is presented in section 4 below.

### 3. OVERALL TIMESCALE FOR ESIF FINALISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 Finalising the ESIF strategy and preparing for effective implementation is a complex task and is influenced by a number of external factors such as the formalisation of the

'Partnership Agreement' and 'Operational Programmes' for the various ESIF funds between the UK Government and the European Commission, the Commission's views on the status of LEPs and potential 'opt-in' partners, the publication of guidance from Government, such as that related to 'Business Process' and 'CLLD' and how Government chooses to relate to LEPs on ESIF issues. All of these issues can impact on the role of LEPs in the process.

- 3.2 In overall timescale terms, Government does not expect to have the necessary agreements in place with the Commission to begin to spend ESIF funds until the end of 2014, therefore LEPs will not be in a position to make commitments from ESIF funds until 2015 at the earliest. In its recent articulation of expected 'milestones', Government noted that;

- April - May - Refinement of ESIF Strategies
- July – Oct - **Develop Annual Implementation Plan** and identify project pipeline.
- Nov - ESIF Strategies finalised
- Nov - Operation Programme approved by EC
- Dec - **First calls for applications**

#### 4. KEY ISSUES FOR CLARIFICATION IN THE FINAL ESIF

##### **Governance**

- 4.1 The overall UK governance arrangements for the ESIF programme will be established by the Partnership Agreement between the UK Government and the European Commission, to be concluded by the end of 2014. As part of this all LEPs will have to establish overall governance arrangements that are compliant with European Commission Code of Conduct on Partnerships but also assure UK government that they are fit for purpose to support the efficient implementation of the programme. Whilst the operational detail of the LEP's governance arrangements can be addressed as part of the development of the Annual Implementation Plan, the overall framework needs to be established in the revised ESIF. LEPs await the publication of 'Business Process Guidance' from Government to finalise their expectations but the Government's preferred approach to LEP ESIF governance can be identified in the its Technical Appendix to the Draft ERDF Operational Programme of May 2014, which states;

*"It is further envisaged that **the Structural Funds Programme Monitoring Committee will be supported by 39 Local Sub-Committees, one for each Local Enterprise Partnership area.** Government will ask Local Enterprise Partnerships to co-ordinate the Local Sub-Committee and partners in their area in accordance with the Code of Conduct on Partnership. Local Sub-Committees will be chaired by local partners with the Managing Authority as deputy. They will report to the Programme Monitoring Committee and by extension to its sub-committees. **Their membership must include the full range of local partners as set out in European Commission regulations.** The exact format of Local Sub-Committees and its fit with local governance is a matter for partners provided arrangements are compliant with European Commission regulations."<sup>1</sup>*

- 4.2 To be compliant with the European Commission Code of Conduct on Partnerships, a group taking funding decisions on LEP ESIF allocations is required to have a vice-Chair from the Managing Authority and representation from a broad range of partners. All partners must have equal access to the decision making process.

##### *ESIF Local Sub-Committees*

- 4.3 To meet the Commission's requirements, Government proposes the establishment of 'ESIF Local Sub-Committees', chaired by a LEP nominee but including a broader range of partners than those currently represented on LEP Boards. The ESIF Local Sub-Committee'

<sup>1</sup> See p40 onwards ERDF Draft Operational Programme Technical Annex, DCLG, May 2014

(sometimes referred to as a 'LEP Area Partnership') would be a formal sub-committee of the UK Government's National Programme Monitoring Committee. The LEP would work with the Managing Authority to determine the membership template of Local Sub-Committee (see attached diagram).

- 4.4 In our ESIF Strategy, we proposed that the D2N2 Board should take overall responsibility for the LEP's ESIF functions however the LEP Board, as currently constituted, does not fulfil the requirements of being an 'ESIF Local Sub-Committee'.
- 4.5 It is therefore suggested that the D2N2 Board establishes a membership template for a 'Local Sub-Committee', nominates the Chair of the Sub-Committee and delegates all ESIF related decisions to the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee would be termed the 'D2N2 ESIF Programme Board' and would periodically report programme performance to the LEP Board. The LEP Board will keep the operation of the Programme Board under review and amend as necessary.
- 4.6 It is suggested that, operationally, the D2N2 ESIF Programme Board will operate as a dedicated session at each D2N2 Board Meeting with membership augmented as appropriate for the session.

#### **Recommendation 1**

**It is recommended that, to ensure compliance, the ESIF is updated to state that D2N2 will establish a dedicated D2N2 ESIF Programme Board and the D2N2 Board will agree the membership template, nominate the Chair of the Programme Board and invite the Managing Authority to nominate a representative to be the Vice-Chair.**

#### *Role of Partners, including Local Authority Joint Committees*

- 4.7 Government officials have challenged our proposed arrangements, particularly the delegation of decision-making to Joint Committees, which is not considered to be compliant with the Code of Conduct on Partnerships.
- 4.8 Joint Committees and other partners, such as the D2N2 Skills Commission, Employment and Skills Boards, Social Inclusion Sounding Board and others can and should play an effective role in supporting and informing the decision-making of the ESIF Programme Board at three key stages (see attached diagram as appendix B). They are;
  - a. The identification of activities and programmes to be funded through ESIF through the Annual Implementation Plan and development of tender specifications.
  - b. Reviewing and prioritising outline bids
  - c. Reviewing and prioritising full bids
- 4.9 Whilst the operational detail of the D2N2 governance model can be addressed in the Implementation Plan, it is suggested that operational principles are established in the updated ESIF to clarify the D2N2 governance model. The principles stick closely to the approach outlined in the January ESIF whilst being compliant in letter and spirit to the Code of Conduct on Partnerships. They clarify the role of the D2N2 ESIF Programme Board (LEP Area Committee), the role of the Joint Committees to bring local insight to the process and the roles of other partners to input from their perspective. They are;

#### ***Recommended Statement of Principles on Governance for D2N2 ESIF***

- 4.10 The Managing Authority
  - a. will not fund any activity from the LEP's ESIF allocation unless that has been approved by the LEP (or, as proposed, by the ESIF Programme Board, on behalf of the LEP).

- b. Provide in a timely manner such assessment and monitoring information to the LEP, ESIF Programme Board and ESIF Advisory Network as necessary to effectively support their functions.

4.11 The LEP will;

- a. lead the strategic approach to the use of ESIF funds in the D2N2 area to ensure operations fit with the overall Strategic Economic Plan
- b. lead the development of a single LEP-wide Implementation Plan for the ESIF Funds that will provide clear guidance on the activities that the LEP would wish to see supported by ESIF Funds, allow for innovation in delivery and support a blend of collaborative, LEP wide and more local approaches to deliver better outcomes.
- c. Convene partners to form a ESIF Local Sub-Committee, termed the 'D2N2 ESIF Programme Board', to manage the delivery of the programme,
- d. Designate groups as appropriate, including the D2 and N2 Joint Committees, the D2N2 Skills Commission, sector advisory groups and others as appropriate (including a Social Inclusion Group) to create a 'ESIF Advisory Network' to ensure that the decision decision-making of the ESIF Programme Board is fully informed and effective
- e. Contribute to development of pipeline of projects of impact and scale

4.12 The Groups within the ESIF Advisory Network will;

- a. Inform, from their geographic or thematic perspective, the development and sign off of the D2N2 ESIF Implementation Plan and associated project tender specifications
- b. Have the opportunity to review and advise the ESIF Programme Board on any outline or full application for projects and programmes that propose spend from the LEP ESIF allocation within their geographic or thematic area.
- c. Consider performance and spend information produced by the Managing Authority and advise the ESIF Programme Board on appropriate action. For the D2 and N2 Joint Committees, this will include monitoring spend and impact within their area and advising the ESIF Programme Board on any arising performance issues.

4.13 The D2N2 ESIF Local Committee (D2N2 ESIF Programme Board) will;

- a. manage the implementation of the ESIF programme on behalf of the LEP, including lead responsibility for endorsing projects for funding and performance monitoring and management
- b. have due regard to the views of the groups within the ESIF Advisory Network in its decision-making and management of the overall programme.
- c. Regularly update the LEP Board on programme delivery

### **Recommendation 2**

**It is recommended that Board agree the above recommended statement of principles for inclusion in the revised ESIF**

### **EAFRD**

- 4.14 DEFRA confirmed its allocation of the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to LEPs on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013, relatively late in the strategy development process. The January draft of the D2N2 ESIF set out our overall position in relation EAFRD being that it will add value to the delivery of our overall programme in rural areas and noted that Board would be asked to consider the allocation of EAFRD between the objectives and Articles after a further process of development and consultation by officers. That process is now complete and Government requires us to finalise our approach in the revised ESIF.
- 4.15 The suggested approach focuses on extending the reach of business support services to ensure effective access for businesses in rural areas.

### **Recommendation 3**



**It is therefore recommended that the Board agrees the EAFRD approach detailed at Appendix C for incorporation in the ESIF strategy.**

#### **REDUCTION IN ESF & ERDF ALLOCATION**

- 4.16 As detailed previously, there has been a net reduction in the D2N2 allocation of ESF and ERDF from €249.7m to €244m.

#### **Recommendation 4**

**To reflect the slight decrease in the overall LEP ESIF allocation, it is recommended to reduce all relevant allocations of ESF and ERDF by thematic area in equal proportion (approximately 2%) so that the overall agreed balance of funding between priorities does not change. It is also proposed that spend will be re-profiled to accommodate the reduction in spend in the final year of the programme.**

### **5. Next Steps on Implementation**

- 5.1 Once the finalised strategy has been approved by Board and submitted to Government, D2N2's ESIF work will focus on the development of a draft Annual Implementation Plan for consultation with partners over the summer with a view to finalising the Plan for submission to Government by the end of October 2014.
- 5.2 The Annual Implementation Plan will be structured by the Key Themes of the Strategic Economic Plan) and will intend to build on the 18 broad 'key activities' outlined in the D2N2 ESIF Strategy to give sharper definition to the activities that the LEP wishes to support from ESIF funds and when. It will also clarify operational governance.
- 5.3 Officers will work with partners to develop a draft Annual Implementation Plan, consult over the summer, report consultation outcomes to Board and ask Board to sign off the final Annual Implementation Plan before submission to Government.

#### **Recommendation 5**

**Board are asked to NOTE the way forward on implementation.**



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## Item 3.2 – Appendix A D2N2 ESIF Feedback Letters

20 March 2014

David Ralph  
D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership

Dear David,

Thank you for your work in preparing the ESIF Strategy to set out how the Local Enterprise Partnership wishes to prioritise the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds in the LEP geography over the next programme period.

All the strategies have now been assessed by Government at local and national level and have been considered by the Growth Programme Board. Government wrote to LEP Chairs on 18 March to provide general feedback from the assessment process and to set out a number of dependencies and next steps.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with specific feedback in relation to your strategy, and in particular to set out those areas where additional work will be required to satisfactorily complete this phase of development. The Growth Programme Board is keen for these actions to be satisfactorily addressed by 31 May 2014.

A meeting with your team to talk through this feedback has been arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> April so that I can answer any questions, and we can agree how it will be taken forward.

For ease, I have set out the feedback in bullet point form below.

- Activities are not always outlined in enough detail to confirm additionality. For example cross cutting themes, Green Infrastructure, ICT Support, Transport Infrastructure and social engagement. There are also contradictions within the text that may impact on this assessment. For example the document states that their professional jobs are in decline, but on page 10 they speak of a growth in these sectors by 33k. The results are also still to be confirmed which impact on the VFM calculations.
- Some areas are light in confirming that national priorities and programmes have been considered in enough detail. These are (1) ESOL support is not referenced





## Department for Communities and Local Government

within the document. (2) Overcoming barriers to work focuses on young people the strategy would benefit from a broader view of displaced and unemployed adults. (3) The changes from September 2013 where students do not hold an A-C\* in English and Maths will need to continue to study towards then which will be a funding condition from August 2014 and the raising of the participation age. (4) The high level of focus on higher level vocational skills may still require further explanation and business case, as the evidence case is not as robust. (5) The LEP will need to make a case for why they are proposing to go against eligibility criteria for public funding. (6) There is no mention of University Technical Colleges (UTC) or Studio Schools (SSs) and the role they could play in achieving the six growth priorities.

- One condition was highlighted as critical by DEFRA. This is the split of EAFRD allocation by theme. Subsequent to submission of the ESIF comments DEFRA have now received, and are content with the split across priorities. The final document does need updating to reflect the submitted split.
- A drafting issue has been raised by SFA. It is stated that paragraph 1 of page 59 needs removing as this is factually incorrect.
- More clarity is required around how the LEP intends to manage the process of bringing pipeline projects forward outside those that the Joint Committees will be doing (i.e some surety that there will be a support system for LEP wide projects). Understanding of how the Employment and Skills Commission would look to go about its role to assuage fears of under representation from FE and schools.
- A drafting issues is present on match funding table, the LEP has highlighted that UKTI match funding would be used for low carbon agenda. This is not the case and the document does need amending to reflect this.
- Additional clarity is needed on CLLD. The document is high level with a number of areas (Added value, rationale for support), either weak or not addressed. There are also a number of areas that are ineligible (Institutional capacity, and Opt in match funding), with clarity required over the allocation of funding as this should be present in TO9. Finally a process detailed regarding overlap and CLLD with SCR is present in the documentation, however, SCR have subsequently confirmed that they will not be doing any CLLD. This section needs to be clarified.
- CLLD is mentioned under To4/TO7 but it should be TO9
- Clarity is required on the market failure aspects of transport infrastructure, flood defence and broadband that warrant public sector intervention. Current there is no rationale for intervention, and beneficiaries that have been identified as recipient of





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funding are questionable (local authorities), as to how this then translates into SME assists.

- It would be useful to highlight to the LEP that they will need to speak to Business Bank and local teams on how to take forward the results from their ex ante evaluation (once complete).
- The LEP assumes TSB match but haven't contacted TSB.
- Further guidance on the agreed range and level of outputs and results will be forthcoming in April, as will guidance on the calculation of exchange rates, and on this basis, we will work with you, if required, to revise your financial and output profiles accordingly.
- We will continue to work with you to develop appropriate governance arrangements for the delivery of your strategy, in line with the EC Partnership Code of Conduct, and further guidance on the business process model which is due to be issued to you in April.

As set out in the letter of 18 March, Government approval of ESIF Strategies will be conditional upon:

- i) Commission approval of the UK Partnership Agreement and ESIF Operational Programmes;
- ii) on-going negotiations between LEP areas and Opt In Organisations; and
- iii) the outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment process and subsequent agreement of the structural fund allocations following the recent Judicial Review.

With my colleagues in BIS Local, DWP, DEFRA, SFA, UKTI and Cabinet Office, I look forward to providing you with continued support in the further development of your strategy.

Yours sincerely

Brenden Byczkowski

Cc Peter Richardson  
Matt Wheatley





18 March 2014

Dear LEP Chairs

Thank you for submitting your European Structural and Investment Fund (ESI Funds) Strategies to Government by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014. We recognise that this has been a challenging process and we are very grateful for the work of you and your partners in pulling together your priorities and local plans for the 2014-2020 ESI Funds. These will of course complement the Strategic Economic Plans you are now finalising, which the ESI Funds will be an important part of.

The Growth Programme Board (GPB) which oversees the England ESI Fund Growth Programme met on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to consider ESI Fund Strategies and recommendations prepared by cross-departmental teams who assessed and analysed all 39 strategies.

The GPB agreed that strategies have improved considerably from the October drafts. Whilst there is still some further work to do to finalise specific details in all of them, in the majority of cases the extent of additional work is not significant.

**Local Teams made up of DCLG Growth Delivery Teams, BIS Local, DWP and Defra colleagues and other involved public bodies will work with you over the coming months to agree outstanding work in your ESI Fund strategy. Annex A contains some more detailed points that the GPB considered and asked to be reflected in the subsequent development of ESI Fund Strategies. The Local Team will discuss these with you as relevant in addition to specific issues that relate to your ESI Fund Strategy. This phase of development will be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014.**

Government will continue to engage with you throughout 2014 as you further develop your ESI Fund strategies with local partners.

There are three general considerations that need to be borne in mind as you continue to develop your strategies. These are:

1. Agreement of the UK Partnership Agreement and ESIF Operational programmes.

The UK Partnership Agreement and ERDF, ESF and EAFRD Operational Programmes are due to be submitted to the EC over the coming months. These will then be negotiated with the EC and adopted during 2014. These documents will contain the national intervention logic, details of selected Thematic Objectives, outputs and results. As ESI Fund Strategies have been informed by the Partnership Agreement and Operational Programmes, and vice versa, **agreement of ESI Fund**

////

**strategies therefore is conditional and subject to change dependent on the outcome of negotiations with the EC.** Negotiations are expected to conclude by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

Government will keep affected LEP areas informed of likely changes that impact on your plans as discussions take place with the EC during 2014.

## 2. Opt-in organisation negotiations

You and local partners are now in discussion with organisations offering programmes and match funding through the Opt-in model. These discussions are likely to continue until June 2014 and potentially beyond in some cases, as the details of provision to be provided in LEP areas and the amounts of ESI Funds involved are agreed with Opt-in Organisations. The sooner these agreements are reached, the less delay there will be in the delivery on the ground, so it is important that these discussions proceed at pace. In the meantime, **content that relates to opt-in services in ESI Fund strategies is conditional and subject to change during 2014.**

## 3. Judicial Review of Structural Funds in the UK

With reference to the legal challenge made by Local Councils broadly representing the Liverpool and Sheffield City Regions to the Government's allocations of EU Structural Funds (European Regional Development Fund & European Social Fund) to the Devolved Administrations of the UK and notionally within England during 2013, the High Court has dismissed the claim in relation to all substantive grounds, which include the challenge to the Government's methodology for the allocation of the funds. Nevertheless, the Government's decisions on the allocations of Structural Funds across the UK have been quashed on the basis that the Government has been found to be in breach of its Public Sector Equality Duty as part of the decision-making process.

At the current time, there are therefore no allocations of Structural Funds to the UK as a whole and consequently to LEP areas. However, the process for assessment of final ESIFs began before the result of the legal challenge was known. After the High Court ruling was announced, the Government decided to continue with the assessment process in parallel with its reconsideration of Structural Funds allocations in the context of its Public Sector Equality Duty. The Government will be re-taking the allocation decisions as soon as possible and consider implications for ESI Fund strategies at that stage.

Government aims to negotiate the detailed programming arrangements with the European Commission so that spending can start as soon as possible this year. It is important to maintain momentum as these funds are important for driving innovation, business growth and higher skills.

As well as these general considerations, there are two further aspects that apply if you are planning to include Financial Instruments and/or Community Led Local Development in your ESI Fund Strategy.

### (i) Financial Instruments

Financial Instruments (FIs) are proposed in a number of ESI Fund strategies. In many cases these are collaborative and involve several LEP areas. Each FI will require a separate ex-ante assessment and a process of development to establish final focus and scale as proposals are worked up. This will involve corresponding changes to affected ESIFs as FIs are developed in 2014/2015.

Please note that the Social Housing model will not now be going ahead as a national fund as originally intended. Those LEP areas who indicated interest in this model will be contacted separately

to discuss next steps towards developing a local financial instrument along similar lines using European Investment Bank or other public / private finance as match funding, either singularly or in collaboration with other LEP areas.

(ii) Community Led Local Development

The ESI Fund strategies contain a total of 65 separate Community Led Local Development (CLLD) proposals with £116m attached. The implementation of CLLD will involve a call for Local Action Groups to come together and develop detail Local Development Strategies for their area. These will be assessed by Government against agreed selection criteria including whether or not some CLLDs may be more effectively incorporated within the standard ESIF business process in England. Therefore, where CLLD is proposed in your ESI Fund Strategy there is potential for strategies to change in 2014.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your continued support in developing local plans for this important source of funding. Along with Growth Deals and other sources of investment in local growth, the ESI Funds bring a significant opportunity to drive growth and jobs in your area and we look forward to delivering them in partnership with you during 2014-2020.



**BERNADETTE KELLY CB**  
**Director General,**  
**Business and Local Growth**

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## **Annex A**

### **Gaps in the evidence base and fit with national policy.**

- Whilst there has been a substantial improvement in the majority of ESI Fund Strategies, in some cases evidence and analysis is still missing. This particularly relates to priorities selected from the ten Thematic Objectives that make up the EU policy menu for the ESI Funds<sup>2</sup>, where the evidence of need in relation to each must be well demonstrated.
- Evidence of needs in rural areas is only partially addressed in some cases and requires further work in these areas.
- There is a need for stronger evidence on how sustainable development principles are being applied against all Thematic Objectives and not just those with a specific Sustainable Development focus.
- Government will continue to work with local partners to develop and test the evidence base with a view to making the strongest case possible for needs identified in Thematic Objectives which the EU have not identified as priorities for the UK<sup>3</sup> and which are therefore more likely to be challenged by the European Commission.
- As detailed proposals are worked up Local Teams will need to ensure that activities proposed complement existing national activities and that we avoid any activities which contradict national policy. For instance, in some ESI Fund Strategies, clarification is needed that skills proposals will not duplicate or cut across national policy on grants, loans and bursaries.
- The innovation elements of a small number of ESI Fund Strategies are considered to be insufficiently developed to fulfill EU requirements. Where this applies LEPs and partners will be offered additional support to help address gaps in evidence
- Activities proposed for SME competitiveness, employment, social inclusion, skills sometimes lacks detail and comes across as generic and not distinctive to local areas. In addition to providing a more localised account, there is a need to provide greater clarity on the relationship to national programmes in some cases.
- The social inclusion evidence base needs to be strengthened to set out more clearly which disadvantaged groups are the proposed focus and the types of tailored provision sought.
- Climate change adaptation is sometimes considered solely in relation to flood risk, and other relevant factors should also be built in to strategies in a cross cutting way.

### **Categorisation of activities.**

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<sup>2</sup> The Thematic Objectives (TOs) are: TO1 Innovation; TO2 ICT; TO3 SMEs; TO4 Low Carbon; TO5 Climate Change; TO6 Environment; TO7 Sustainable Transport; TO8 Employment; TO9 Social Inclusion; TO10 Skills

<sup>3</sup> Thematic Objectives which the EU have not identified as UK priorities are TO2 ICT, TO5 Climate Change; elements of TO6 Environment and TO7 Sustainable Transport



- Some types of activity may need to be re-categorised under a different Thematic Objective because they are not eligible under the Thematic Objective selected. This particularly refers to activities that relate to business resource efficiency, employment site development and sustainable transport. Local teams will advise on this further.

### **Thematic concentration**

- The EU prescribes certain minimum amounts of spend (or 'thematic concentration') under specified Thematic Objectives for ERDF and ESF. In some ESI Fund strategies there is very little explanation for why minimum thematic concentration levels for low carbon and social inclusion are not met. The GPB have specifically agreed that areas not meeting the minimum 20% ERDF Low Carbon (TO4) requirement must have exceptional reasons for not doing so and that these must be fully evidenced.

### **ERDF/ESF split**

- Government is now analysing the ERDF and ESF split to ensure it complies with EU regulations. The outcome of this work and the negotiations on the Partnership Agreement and Operational programmes may result in areas that are not committing sufficient amounts to either Fund being asked to increase/decrease as appropriate.

### **Output targets and performance delivery**

- Output indicators are in some cases unrealistically high/low. Further guidance was issued by Government in December and outlier ESI Fund Strategies will be further discussed and adjusted as needed. Local Teams will work with local partners to revise annual ESI Fund strategies output and result numbers on the basis of an agreed range and at a level that is viable within national Operational Programmes (subject to the negotiation of target levels with the European Commission). These discussions will identify ESI Fund Strategies with output and result numbers outside of an agreed range relative to the type and intensity of proposed intervention and agree local targets.
- Managing Authorities will work with local partners to finalise spending profiles to ensure delivery of annual spend targets (known as 'N+3') and sound financial planning in each ESI Fund Strategy. ESI Fund Strategies will be updated to reflect guidance that is being developed on a Performance Framework between Managing Authorities and LEP areas and guidance on exchange rates.
- Some LEP areas that will receive Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) funding propose spending profiles that either fail to deliver required targets or propose high-risk back-loading of spend. Managing Authorities will work with local partners to agree changes to YEI where required.

### **Match funding**

- Match funding proposals are not always robust. These will be further tested, though given the extended investment period, it is understood that some of the projections are assumptions rather than firm commitments.
- Managing Authorities will work with local partners to finalise match funding plans and the indicative public/private sector split.
- Government approval of ESI Fund Strategies does not constitute agreement of match funding from identified bodies.

### **Financial Instruments**

- Local Teams will continue to work with partners as FIs are further developed and ensure that considerations and criteria set out in the ESI Fund Supplementary Guidance are met.
  - Government approval of ESI Fund Strategies does not constitute agreement of individual FIs.
- ### **Community Led Local Development**
- Partners should continue to work with Government as local Community Led Local Development (CLLD) plans are developed. Further guidance and criteria for the assessment of CLLDs and Local Development Strategies will be developed in 2014. ESI Fund strategies may need to be adjusted to reflect changes to CLLD plans.

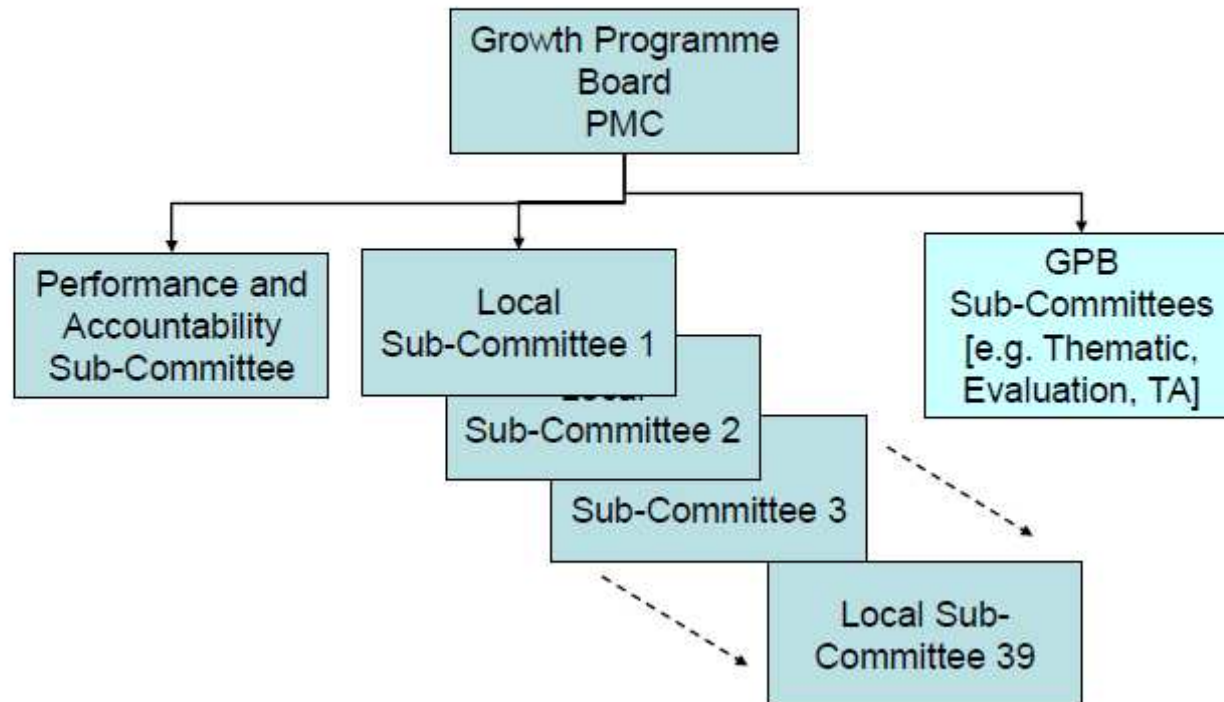
### **Collaboration across LEP areas**

- With the exception of Financial Instruments, there is not much evidence of plans for collaboration across LEP areas and/or overlapping LEP areas. Government will set out its views on scope for flexible geographic and thematic collaboration between LEP areas. Meanwhile, local partners should consider further opportunities for joint working across LEP areas, particularly where activities and priorities proposed are common across ESI Fund strategies. National policy leads and Local teams will support this process.

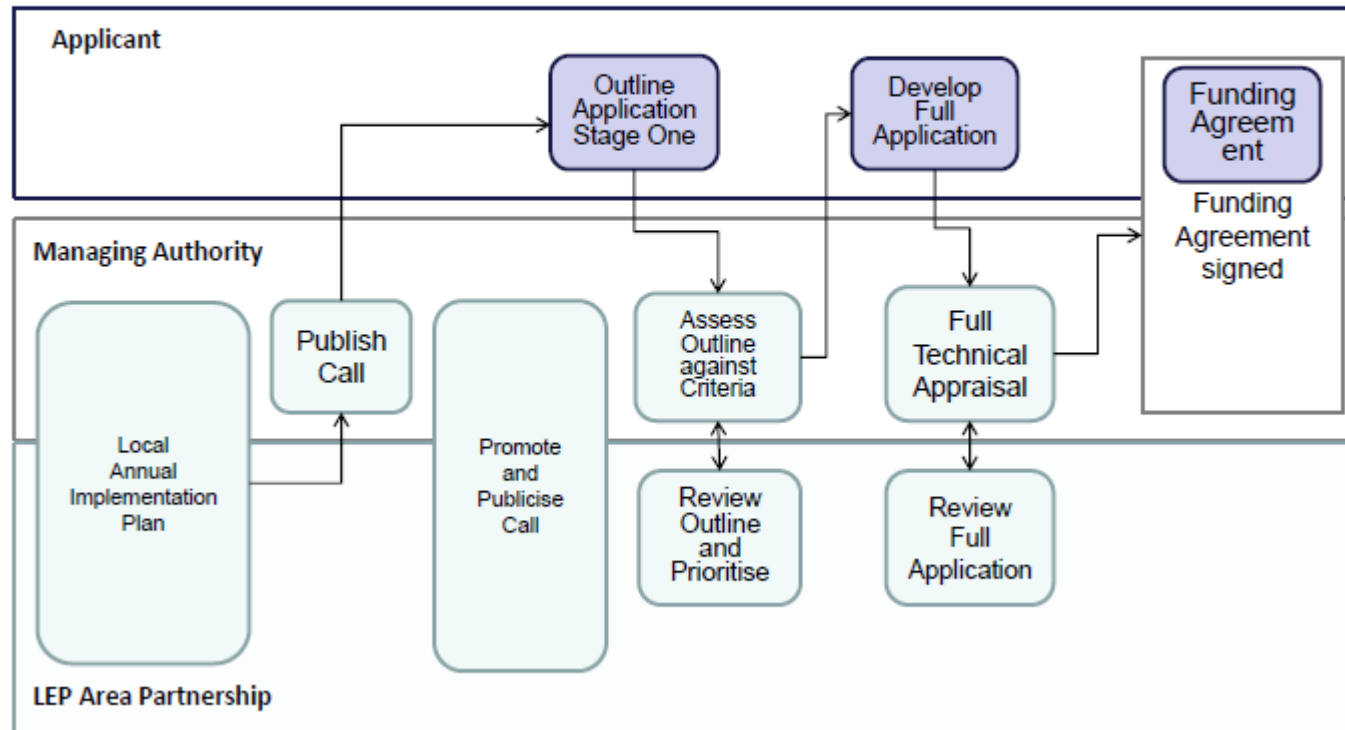
### **EAFRD**

- EAFRD allocations were confirmed on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Some local partners have not yet developed robust plans for the appropriate focus of EAFRD allocations. Local Teams will support further work where required.

## Local Sub-Committees



European Structural & Investment Fund 2014-20  
High Level Business Process – Inception to Funding  
Agreement



## Item 3.2 – Appendix C: Proposed D2N2 EAFRD Approach

### D2N2 EUSIF Detail - Allocations for the use of EAFRD - European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) - allocation of £6,055,134 over 6 years

The aim primarily is to add value to the Main LEP Programme of business growth and support by recognising the need in rural areas, to have equitable access to the business growth services readily available in cities and larger conurbations. Through experienced and proactive Business Advisers, funded through EAFRD, who become the “bridge” between mainstream provision and rural businesses that have ambitions to grow. D2N2 recognised “Growth Sectors” will be given priority through appraisal criteria and clearly job creation potential is an important factor. However, any business or social enterprise applicant creating jobs will be given equal opportunity.

#### EAFRD Allocation. Plus 50% match from Private Sector

Theme	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	Total (£)
<b>Broadband</b>		<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>				<b>1,000,000</b>
<b>Objective 3 Business Advisers</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>
<b>Training/CPD Events/Innovation</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>30,134</b>	<b>400,134</b>
<b>Grant support (Capital/revenue)</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>855,000</b>	<b>850,000</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>4,055,000</b>
<b>Total Grant</b>							<b>6,055,134</b>

#### Thematic Objective 3 – enhancing the Competitiveness of Small & Medium Enterprises and EAFRD Article 19 (tbc)

Support to provide “deeper” rural provision through the Growth Hub, through sub-contracted arrangements for locally recruited business advisers (with specialist knowledge or experience of working in rural areas) but linked to the D2N2 Business Growth Hub team and Business Support Opt Ins (MAS, UKTI, Growth Accelerator) to have a programme of “promote and dispersal” of these wider skills, support & access to new markets (compliment this offer where LEADER operates – to avoid duplication) and these Business Advisers will share intelligence & good practice of business with growth potential and collaboration across the D2N2 area.

Potential areas of focus



- Innovation - Use EAFRD (if required) for further University Innovation provision “reach” to growing rural businesses.
- Marketing business support (explore a pool of marketeers to provide support businesses to develop a Marketing Strategy) on the basis of Opt In providers of manufacturing or export advice) – provided through a strand within the grant scheme
- Environmental Audits through a strand of the grant support that can lead to cost reductions through low carbon solutions. Support for emerging rural SMART Sustainable Communities could be explored.
- Grant support will focus on projects of £35,000 and above to maximise the impact and complement LEADER activity. Criteria for assistance shall prioritise the D2N2 Growth Sectors and in particular EAFRD lends itself to support for, but not exclusively Agri-food and micro breweries for example (Article 17, measure 4.2) and rural tourism (Visitor Economy) project activity

### **Broadband (Article x tbc)**

Retain a sum of £1m to support the final roll out of Broadband provision to the final 5% (or smaller) through an innovative community based solution. (likely to be 2016/17 and 17/18). This could only occur in conjunction with BDUK roll out when we know what the “not spots” finally become. As information emerges and regular reviews are made and should the BDUK Programme achieve 100% coverage, this £1m allocation will be directed to top up the rural grants programme to support business technology interventions and training needs.

### **Outputs**

2 (fte) x dedicated Business Advisors for Rural Nottinghamshire and Rural Derbyshire (links will be made with existing, Local Authority economic development staff, rural advisers and business advisers from banks or Innovation Centres and DNCC staffing in locations such as Glossop, Buxton or Bolsover) (and could be up to 4 part time posts to cover north & south of counties) (Calculation £50K per post x 2 = 100K x 6 years = £600,000)

*Advised that a good ratio for jobs created is £25,000 of spend = 1 job*

- 245 jobs created (based on @ £6m intervention)
- 480 new businesses created in growth sector areas (20 per year per area N Derbys, S Derbys, N Notts & S Notts)
- 480 existing businesses assisted to improve via innovation or improved leadership/management) (20 per year per area N Derbys, S Derbys, N Notts & S Notts)
- 120 jobs safeguarded
- x floor space created via capital grant



- 100 Networking/Training sessions - Trained CPD/Network training events (one to many) – to compliment the Opt In business support offer (MAS, Growth Accelerator, UKti), can include 121 advice session with experts of the day. (based on a mix 4 per year in each area (N Derbys, S Derbys, N Notts & S Notts, thematic events and broader innovation events)
- x Knowledge transfer between University Innovation programmes & rural businesses







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Mark.foley@communities.gsi.gov.uk

27 May 2014

Dear David,

**ESIF PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE**

Further to our recent meeting and exchange of e mails, I am writing to confirm how LEP Partnerships are required to discharge their ESIF responsibilities as set out in the draft Partnership Agreement.

Your governance arrangements will come under close scrutiny and are required to meet the EC Code of Conduct for Partnerships. The Managing Authority will not accept any form of sub-delegation to groups that do not meet these requirements or any form of notional geographical allocation of funds.

You proposed that LEP Board meetings would be extended for 'ESIF business' and relevant sectors not represented on the LEP Board would be invited to be members of that group. This would appear to comply with our requirements and we will provide further comments following consideration of the draft ESIF strategy due to be submitted by you at the end of the week.

Yours sincerely

Mark Foley  
Head Midlands GDT

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Agenda Item 5

**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC  
PROSPERITY COMMITTEE– 20 JUNE 2014**

<b>Subject:</b>	Skills and Employment		
<b>Presenting authority / representative):</b>	Nottinghamshire County Council/Matt Lockley Nottingham City Council/ Nicki Jenkins		
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Celia Morris <a href="mailto:Celia.morris@nottscc.gov.uk">Celia.morris@nottscc.gov.uk</a>		
<b>Key Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Subject to call-in</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>Value of decision:</b> Nil			
<b>Authorities affected:</b> All Nottinghamshire local authorities.	<b>Date of consultation with relevant authorities:</b> N/A		
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities):</b>			
<p>a) Skills and employment are key priorities for the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and are recognised as significant priorities in economic development strategies and Growth Plans for partners across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>b) Changes to the skills and employment landscape, influenced by the establishment of a D2N2 Skills and Employment Commission, have led to new governance arrangements for skills and employment in Nottinghamshire. The new Skills and Employment Board (SEB) will provide local input into the design of major new funding and commissioning opportunities utilising European Social Funds in the coming years.</p> <p>c) This report provides information to Committee Members on the N2 Skills and Employment Board and on early work to identify skills and employment priorities for the area.</p>			
<b>Exempt information:</b>			
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>			
<p>The Economic Prosperity Committee agrees to:</p> <p>a) Note the content of the report;</p> <p>b) Provide feedback on the Skills and Employment Board's early priorities as outlined.</p>			

## **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The terms of reference for the new Skills and Employment Board (SEB) propose that the Board be accountable to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee. It is therefore important that the Economic Prosperity Committee recognises this and understands and is able to influence the work of the SEB.

## **2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 A workforce with the right skills to support the delivery of economic growth in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire is vital. Mainstream Government programmes such as the National Apprenticeship Service and Work Programme deliver standard offers across the whole country. Whilst these programmes form the backbone of employment and skills provision, local investment in programmes that support upskilling and

employability also play a significant role, particularly in being more responsive to the needs of the local economy.

- 2.2 Partnership approaches to employment and skills issues have a long history in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Most local authority partners have some form of local structures relating to employment and skills, and there was until recently the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Employment and Skills Board (ESB). This has now been disbanded and replaced with a more streamlined approach through the N2 Skills and Employment Board (SEB). The terms of reference for the new Board reflect changes to the policy and operating landscape and seek to align the SEB with both the Economic Prosperity Committee and the D2N2 Skills and Employment Commission.
- 2.3 The SEB has a strong private sector membership to lead work on this agenda. The overall remit of the board is to:
- Work across partners, commissioners and providers to ensure that skills and employment in the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire labour market match the current and future needs of employers
  - On behalf of the Economic Prosperity Committee for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and the D2N2 LEP Skills Commission, the Board will ensure delivery of the LEP Skills Plan and alignment of local strategies by providing strategic leadership and guidance, encouraging collaboration and monitoring local delivery.
  - To work with Skills Funding Agency/Department of Work and Pensions to develop funding specifications for EU and other funding as required and to impartially performance monitor EU and other funding streams, such as Youth Contract underspend and other devolved budgets.
- 2.4 The bulk of EU funding for skills and employment will be devolved to the D2N2 LEP from later in 2014. This includes the entire European Social Fund (ESF) allocation, which is targeted at improving skills and employment levels and tackling social exclusion. A key early focus for the SEB will be to work up local specifications which will inform the allocation of D2N2 ESF from 2014-2020. Large parts of the ESF will be matched centrally by the Skills Funding Agency, Department for Work and Pensions and the Big Lottery Fund to deliver match funding at source and increase the investment in the D2N2 area. Influencing the design of these 'opt-in' programmes will be crucial for the SEB.

## **N2 Skills and Employment Framework**

- 2.5 The SEB has discussed the development of a Skills and Employment Framework for the N2 area and proposes that the Framework outlines a number of principles and priority actions. These are outlined below.
- 2.6 **Principles** – it is proposed that the following principles are adopted:
- a. build on best practice and existing high-performing initiatives and seek to extend these and sustain their reach, where possible
  - b. focus on the needs of our employers

- c. develop and deliver end-to-end solutions, which offer career pathways and harness ambition
- d. lobby and influence mainstream provision to ensure that it is meeting local needs, improves in quality and that commissioning is devolved to local areas, where possible
- e. integrate our own activities and investment as far as possible to avoid duplication and add better value

2.7 **Priority Areas** - the Board has prioritised work in three areas: Economic Inclusion; Children and Young People and Sector Growth. Examples of the key activity proposed in each of these three areas are outlined below:

#### **Children and Young People**

- a) actions to secure greater engagement of schools in the development of the future workforce;
- b) support to develop apprenticeships and roll out the apprenticeship hub model;
- c) lobby for the inclusion of employability within the Ofsted framework;
- d) enhanced careers guidance for all, with a particular focus on key sectors
- e) Focus on points of transition – preventing young people becoming NEET.

#### **Economic Inclusion**

- a) supporting marginalised groups; targeted BME support and a focus on Employment Support Allowance claimants;
- b) development of local jobs plans at community level, with the aim of pulling together and ‘bending’ mainstream provision;
- c) employer engagement – simplifying it, increasing it, extending the hub model and building on Jobs Pledges, Work Clubs, Jobs Fair activity;
- d) incentive programme to encourage entry level job creation – Jobs Fund approach

#### **Sector Growth**

- a) develop a system that enables employers to commission what they need from training providers;
- b) lobby for greater control over skills funding through bodies such as the SEB or relevant local sector groups;
- c) develop traineeships and career pathways in priority sectors, both those that have high growth potential and those that offer high volume entry level opportunities

### **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 None.

### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

4.1 Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership are each contributing £25,000 towards the core resourcing of the SEB in 2014-15 and 2015-16. A project co-ordinator post will be established (and hosted by the City Council) along with some part-time project support.

**5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)**

5.1 None.

**6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1

**7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

Has the equality impact been assessed?

- (a) not needed (report does not contain proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions, financial decisions or decisions about implementation of policies development outside the Council) ☐
- (b) No
- (c) Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached ☐

Due regard should be given to the equality implications identified in any attached EIA.

**8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)**

N2 Skills and Employment Board Terms of Reference

**9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT**

None

**10 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT**

Nicki Jenkins, Head of Employment and Skills, Nottingham City Council

# **N2 Skills and Employment Board**

## **Skills and Employment Framework/Strategy**

**May 28<sup>th</sup> 2014**

## Government / D2N2 / local context

- National rhetoric around devolution of powers and funding – yet to be delivered?
- D2N2 Skills Commission and sector plans
- Clarity needed about distinct roles of D2N2 and N2 in the skills and employment context – i.e. sector skills delivered through D2N2? Local employment initiatives through N2?
- European funds present major opportunity. N2 needs to be in a strong position to influence
- Whilst growth is back on the agenda, do we have the skills and workforce to deliver?



# Principles

- Build on best practice and existing high-performing initiatives. Seek to extend these and sustain their reach, where possible
- Focus on the needs of our employers has to be at the heart of everything we do
- Develop and deliver end-to-end solutions, which offer career pathways and harness ambition
- Lobby and influence mainstream provision to ensure that it is meeting local needs
- Integrate our own activities and investment as far as possible to avoid duplication and add better value

# Children and Young People

## **Engagement of schools – future workforce**

- Employability charter with schools – ensuring every school is linked to a local business
- Integrated programme of employability activity in schools both primary and secondary
- Enhanced careers guidance for all – linked to sectors/labour market info.
- Lobbying Government to include employability within the Ofsted inspection framework (including offering to become a pilot area)

## **Apprenticeships**

- Sustainability of the Apprenticeship hub and widening this approach to the whole of N2
- Packages of apprenticeship incentives for employers, targeting companies in growth sectors and those that have not had an apprentice in the past
- Building on the traineeship model to create career pathways, particularly in sectors that have high volume opportunities and can lead to skilled careers (i.e. health and social care)

# Economic Inclusion

- Supporting marginalised groups – 18-24, BME, 50+, LT unemployed by creating seamless pathway through provision from engagement to work through intensive careers guidance and work readiness programmes. (this is about sustaining the youth contract approach and the Nottinghamjobs.com model in the city)
- Focus on ESA claimants
- Targeted BME support
- Development of local jobs plans at community level, with the aim of pulling together and ‘bending’ mainstream provision
- Lit + Num and ESOL provision
- Employer Engagement – simplifying it, increasing it, extending the hub model and building on Jobs Pledges, Work Clubs, Jobs Fair activity
- Incentive programme to encourage entry level job creation – Jobs Fund approach
- Lobbying for commissioning of the Work Programme and other DWP streams at a local level to secure greater local flexibility and accountability
- Sustaining ‘niche’ activity such as Wheels to Work and Work Clubs as key local interventions

# Sector Growth

- Demand led training – system that enables employers to commission what training they need from providers
- Skills support – for employers to support them in accessing skills provision
- Apprenticeship hub linked to the above, offering a range of employer incentives
- Development of a framework for traineeships/Sector Based Work Academies for priority sectors in consultation with the sector
- Lobbying for greater control over skills budgets at a local level

## Resourcing these priorities / next steps

- Understand current investment in N2 across the skills and employment landscape
- Seek opportunities to secure more local control
- Consider 'co-commissioning' approaches with mainstream providers, FE colleges to add value to existing and planned investment
- Influence D2N2 Skills Commission and ensure future ESF programme is responsive to our needs
- Align local partners' investment, where possible, to create programmes that are more than a sum of their parts
- Discuss approach with N2 Economic Prosperity Committee

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Agenda Item 6

**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE – 20 JUNE 2014**

<b>Subject:</b>	Broadband -Options for Matching the Superfast Extension Programme (SEP)		
<b>Presenting authority / representative):</b>	Nottinghamshire County Council/Matt Lockley & Nicola M <sup>c</sup> Coy-Brown		
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Matt Lockley & Nicola M <sup>c</sup> Coy-Brown ( 0115 977 2580 <a href="mailto:nicola.mccoybrown@nottscc.gov.uk">nicola.mccoybrown@nottscc.gov.uk</a>		
<b>Key Decision</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Subject to call-in</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>Value of decision:</b> £2.63 million			<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital
<b>Authorities affected:</b> Nottinghamshire local authorities	<b>Date of consultation with relevant authorities:</b> N/A		
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities):</b>			
<p>a) This is the third report presented to the Economic Prosperity Committee regarding the government led Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) which aims to extend the reach of fibre broadband coverage across Nottingham city and the County beyond 95%.</p> <p>b) Following approval from the Economic Prosperity Committee at its 21 March meeting, an expression of interest was submitted for the SEP monies during whichan in principle commitment to explore further a potential under-write from Nottingham City [£800k]and Nottinghamshire local authorities [£1.83m] was agreed.</p> <p>c) Given the pressures on local authoritycapital budgets, atthe 16 May 2014 Economic Prosperity Committee meeting, a request was made to identify alternative funding options for matching the SEP.</p> <p>d) BDUK are happy to consider alternative sources such as private investment and local trust funds as well as Central Government Sources like the Local Growth Fund and European Funding. However, the deadline for applications to the SEP remains fixed at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and a firm match funding package must be evidenced by this date.</p> <p>e) There are no financial risks to any party until a contract is signed between BT, BDUK and the County Council.</p>			
<b>Exempt information:</b>			
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>			
<p>The Economic Prosperity Committee agrees to:</p> <p>a) continue to lobby D2N2 to secure match funding resources through the Local Growth Deal;</p> <p>b) express their collective willingness to find a solution to bridge any residual funding gap.</p>			

## **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The submission of a formal application to the Government for Superfast Extension resources requires the County Council to be able to evidence that match funding commitments are in place. The Government will match local resources on a £ for £ basis. Therefore if a commitment to the full £2.63 million cannot be secured, the amount of Government funding available will decrease accordingly.
- 1.2 BDUK are happy to consider alternative sources such as private investment and local trust funds, as well as Central Government Sources like the Local Growth Fund and European Funding.

## **2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 As previously reported, Nottinghamshire's allocation is £2.63 million for the Superfast Extension Programme [£1.83m/£0.8m respectively to the county/city]. This is essentially BDUK's best assessment (given the margin for error and the many uncertainties surrounding modelled data) of what is required to secure the government's national objective. The Nottingham City allocation was modelled to raise superfast coverage from 96.0% to 98.0% and for Nottinghamshire County from 94.3% to 96.8%, which would mean a total for the partnership from 94.8% to 97.3%.
- 2.2 Submission of a formal application to the Government for Superfast Extension Programme resources requires the County Council to be able to evidence that match funding commitments are in place. The Government will match local resources on a £ for £ basis. Therefore, if a commitment to the full £2.63m cannot be secured, the amount of Government funding available will decrease accordingly.
- 2.3 Every effort is currently being made to secure the full match funding allocation through the D2N2 Local Economic Partnership (D2N2 LEP) Local Growth Deal and future European funding allocation to the areas.
- 2.4 It is understood that ministerial pressure is likely to be applied to LEPs to ensure that they do use the Growth Deals to deliver match funding for broadband. On the back of this, the Chair of the Economic Prosperity Committee has sent a letter urging the D2N2 LEP CEO to push Government to allow investment in broadband within the D2N2 Growth Deal to ensure that a modern communications infrastructure can be brought to parts of the area not currently reached by the private sector.
- 2.5 Potential remains for future ERDF resources (which are due to come on stream in 2015) to be secured to support broadband delivery, although this will be more difficult given the requirement for businesses to be targeted; the existing ERDF money allocated for the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire programme already targets businesses and there are fewer and fewer businesses to target in the more remote areas covered by the superfast extension fund).
- 2.6 It is still proposed that a separate discussion between Nottinghamshire County Council and all of the Borough and District Councils is convened once the outcomes of the Open Market Review are known. This will inform the individual levels of under-write which may be required.

## **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Do nothing option – (a) Discussions to date with the Economic Prosperity Committee have been positive and at its March meeting, the Committee offered in principle support to the Superfast Extension application and



to the notion of under-writing the final submission(b) Nottinghamshire would not benefit from an additional £4.99m of match funds to extend the reach of fibre-based broadband i.e. Governments £2.63m grant and the private sector supplier making a similar commitment in line with the existing investment ratio expected to be in the region of £2.36m (c) at 4 June County Council Policy Committee unanimous support was given for the submission of a full application for Superfast Extension Programme (Phase 2) funding. For these reasons, the do nothing option has therefore been discounted.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

- 4.1 It is proposed that change control of the existing contract will offer the quickest and lowest administration cost to extend coverage outcomes and will ensure maximum likelihood of outcomes remaining compliant with the UK's State aid National Broadband Scheme. The change control route will be subject to materiality limits and timeframes but importantly would ensure that the private sector supplier investment ratio of 31% to the combined public sector investment of 69% is maintained as illustrated in the following table:

<b>Funding Partner</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Investment ratio</b>
BDUK	£2.63m	69%
Local Funding (i.e. D2N2 Local Growth Fund)	£2.63m	
Supplier	£2.36m	31%
<b>SEP TOTAL</b>	<b>£7.62m</b>	<b>100%</b>

- 4.2 Any appointed telecommunications supplier will deliver value for money via the BDUK process in addition to various auditing measures to ensure that this is the case.

#### **5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)**

- 5.1 Nottinghamshire County Council will be leading the extension of the existing contract (and/or any tendering) and will be acting as lead authority should the Superfast Extension Programme come to fruition.
- 5.2 The County Council will be asking partners to sign a collaboration agreement – committing to a proportion of the required grant match.
- 5.3 There are no financial risks on any party until a contract is signed between BT, BDUK and the County Council.

#### **6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 The County Council is likely to utilise the BDUK Framework for any additional funds secured. This process considers the economic, environmental and social benefits of any approach to procurement.

## **7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

Has the equality impact been assessed?

- (a) not needed (report does not contain proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions, financial decisions or decisions about implementation of policies development outside the Council) ☐
- (b) No
- (c) Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached ☐

Due regard should be given to the equality implications identified in any attached EIA.

## **8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)**

- BDUK Superfast Extension Programme Funding Guidance
- Letter from the Chair of the Economic Prosperity Committee to the D2N2 LEP CEO dated 6 June 2014

## **9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT**

- Nottinghamshire County Council [Economic Development Committee Report](#) on the Superfast Extension Programme [11 March 2014]
- The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire [Economic Prosperity Committee Report](#) Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire (BBfN) Programme Update and Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) [21 March 2014]
- The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire [Economic Prosperity Committee Report](#) Broadband - Superfast Extension Programme [16 May 2014]
- Nottinghamshire County Council [Policy Committee Report](#) on the Superfast Extension Programme [4 June 2014]

## **10 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT**