

## THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES of the meeting held at the Reception Room, Gedling Borough Council, Civic Centre, on 21 March 2014 from 10.00 - 12.05**

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

✓ indicates present at meeting

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

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Mick Burrows       | - Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council               |
| Allen Graham       | - Chief Executive, 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         |
| David Ralph        | - Chief Executive, D2N2   |
| Chris Henning      | - Director for Economic Development, Nottingham City Council    |
| Andrew Warrington  | - Service Director for Highways, Nottinghamshire County Council |
| Nicola McCoy-Brown | - Broadband Programme Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council   |
| Matthew Lockley    | - Economic Development Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council  |
| James Schrodel     | - Policy Officer, Nottingham City Council                       |
| Rav Kalsi          | - Constitutional Services Officer, Nottingham City Council      |

### **11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

### **12 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

### **13 MINUTES**

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

### **14 BETTER BROADBAND FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (BBFN) PROGRAMME UPDATE AND SUPERFAST EXTENSION PROGRAMME (SEP)**

Mick Burrows, Chief Executive for Nottinghamshire County Council, presented the report updating the Committee on the announcement of an extra £2.63 million available for Nottinghamshire from the Superfast Extension Programme. Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) announced on 25 February 2014 indicative allocations from the £250 million of government funding for the expansion of superfast broadband. In order to access the grant, a full application is required by 30 June 2014.

Nottinghamshire's allocation, which includes the City of Nottingham, is £2.63 million and will help achieve the ambition of extending fibre-based broadband beyond 95% of coverage across the County by 2017.

#### **RESOLVED to**

- (1) note the progress update on the Better Broadband for the Nottinghamshire Programme;**
- (2) consider, in advance of any full application to Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), the collective ability to provide the conditional match funding from local public money via the existing co-investment Local Authority Partnership;**
- (3) consider, in advance of any full application to BDUK, the collective ability to underwrite the £2.63 million allocation;**
- (4) authorise Nottinghamshire County Council to actively pursue all external and other funding opportunities with a view to sourcing the requisite match funding;**
- (5) authorise Nottinghamshire County Council to establish from BDUK the methodology behind the allocation of £2.63 million and its constraints and report back to the Committee in May;**
- (6) authorise Rushcliffe Borough Council to establish whether broadband connectivity could form part of planning regulations and/or core strategies and to report its findings back to the Committee in May;**
- (7) notify the Broadband Steering Group of communities which are isolated from broadband connectivity.**

#### **Reasons for decisions**

The funding being made available to improve broadband speeds across Nottinghamshire could be under threat if the existing co-investment partnership of

Councils cannot afford to match the indicative funding. The Committee will therefore need to consider various funding sources to match the funding allocation in order to realise the opportunity to get Nottingham better connected to faster fibre-based broadband, narrowing the digital divide and boosting local growth.

#### Other options considered

To do nothing. The existing Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire programme almost achieves the Government targets at this stage. However, this option has been discounted as although the existing programme already delivers close to 95% coverage across the County, there are discrepancies within this figure with some districts receiving coverage between 80 – 85%.

### **15 EXCLUDING THE PUBLIC**

The Chair concluded that the reasons for excluding the public from the meeting for duration of the meeting, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, was no longer necessary, on the basis that the Committee's Strategic Economic Development Plan (SEP) did not include commercially sensitive or confidential information.

### **16 N2'S PRIORITY PROJECTS AND OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SEP)**

Chris Henning, Director for Economic Development at Nottingham City Council, delivered the presentation, informing the Committee on the proposed Strategic Economic Development Plan (SEP) submission to the D2N2 LEP, highlighting the following:

- (a) the three main elements underpinning the SEP submission are business innovation, employment and skills and housing regeneration. The D2N2 LEP will consider the final draft SEP at its meeting on 25 March 2014 and submit it to Government by 31 March 2014;
- (b) D2N2's SEP submission will focus on the following 8 priority sectors: transport equipment manufacturing, life sciences, construction, food and drink manufacturing, visitor economy, low carbon goods and services, transport and logistics and creative industries. The number of priority sectors is reasonably manageable in comparison to other LEPs, some of whom have included up to 80 priority sectors;
- (c) the submission by the D2N2 LEP will compete with other LEP submissions and the quality of the projects will influence the final scale of the Growth Deal. There is a desire to complete the Growth Deal with the Government before summer recess. Further European Union funding is expected in 2014/15;
- (d) to achieve the LEP's ambitions, the right infrastructure and conditions to support business and employment growth will need to be put in place, including cutting edge R and D which will support product and process innovation. Ultimately, D2N2 will contribute to re-balancing the UK economy via its strategic vision;

Following a discussion, the additional information was provided by the Committee:

- (e) there is a recognition of the strength of cross-border developments within the SEP such as Beeston Park and the Rolls Royce project. There is a feeling that Government has a focus on city-developments and this is reflected in the Committee's submission, as well as D2's submission;
- (f) the wording of the A57 development could be slightly altered to amplify the importance regeneration would provide in the context, in particular with reference to the link the A57 provides to the A1 and M1. There is further scope to link this development to Robin Hood Airport;
- (g) once the SEP has been submitted to Government, a period of further discussions and negotiations is likely. There is a feeling that should a scheme intended for development in 2015/16 not materialise it would not automatically be considered as a top priority for 2016/17 and 'top slice' the funding available for that year;
- (h) following the election in May 2015, it is likely that LEPs all around the country will have to resubmit their Strategic Economic Plans. D2N2 LEP will seek to engage the Committee in the future in establishing what schemes to deliver in the future despite no firm delegation to the Committee being established by the LEP Board;
- (i) negotiations with Government would be necessary in the scenario where the LEP receives half of the funding included within the submission. Another look at the list of priorities would be inevitable to re-prioritise on the deliverability of schemes;
- (j) at the next meeting in May, there would be an opportunity for the LEP to give some feedback to the Committee from the Government and potentially invite a member of the Growth Deal Team for further clarity. Following submission of the bid it would be beneficial for Committee members to engage their local MPs to encourage support for the bid at a ministerial level.

The Committee discussed the strategic aims of the Committee, highlighting the following:

- (k) a press release supporting the accelerated development of the eastern side of HS2 and a station at Toton, should the scheme get approval, will be circulated in the coming days;
- (l) there is the potential to commission the Employment and Skills Board to present a report to the Committee in the future on how to develop skills and innovation within the constituent local authorities. A future strategy would need to have a focus on graduate retention within the area given that there is room for improvement in this regard. Successful schemes on apprenticeships and the development of specific skills would be shared amongst authorities as part of a wider strategy, such as the successful schemes currently in operation at Carlton College and within Mansfield;

- (m) should the Committee wish to designate schemes, D2N2 LEP will consider delegating £20,000 to the Committee to support work in line with the Employability Charter. There is also scope to engage with Nottingham Futures around where to target job growth and develop skills. Chief Executives of all constituent authorities will be tasked with formulating a strategic vision for the Committee.

**RESOLVED to**

- (1) agree the submission of D2N2 Strategic Economic Development Plan, subject to the slight alteration to the wording of the A57 scheme in order to amplify the importance regeneration provides in context of its link to A1 and M1;**
- (2) encourage Committee members to write to their local MP's encouraging support for the bid;**
- (3) authorise Chief Executives of all constituent authorities to work on an overriding Strategy to form the basis for priorities for future LEP funding and report back to the Committee;**
- (4) circulate a press release regarding HS2 in support of a station at Toton and the positive opportunities available with the acceleration of the eastern development.**