



**NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

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

**Date:** Friday, 24 July 2015

**Time:** 9.30 am

**Place:** Rufford Suite, County Hall, West Bridgford. NG2 7QP

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

**Acting Corporate Director for Resources**

**Governance Officer:** James Welbourn, Governance Officer **Direct Dial:** 01158763288

**AGENDA**

**Pages**

- |          |   |                |
|----------|---|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>APOLOGIES</b>  |                |
| <b>2</b> | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</b>  |                |
| <b>3</b> | <b>MINUTES</b>  | <b>3 - 6</b>   |
|          | To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 June 2015.  |                |
| <b>4</b> | <b>ESTABLISHING THE COMBINED AUTHORITY AND COMBINED N2 GROWTH PLAN</b>  |                |
|          | Introduced by Andrew Muter, Chief Executive of Newark and Sherwood District Council.  |                |
| <b>5</b> | <b>BUSINESS RATES POOL</b>  | <b>7 - 14</b>  |
|          | Report of Nigel Stevenson, Service Director – Finance and Procurement at Nottinghamshire County Council.                            |                |
| <b>6</b> | <b>BT INVITE TO ADASTRAL PARK</b>   | <b>15 - 18</b> |
|          | Report of Jayne Francis-Ward: Corporate Director, Policy, Planning and Corporate Services (PPCS) at Nottinghamshire County Council. |                |

**7 N2 COLLABORATIVE EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS HUB**

19 - 24

Report of Allen Graham, Chief Executive of Rushcliffe Borough Council.

IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE ON DECLARING AN INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE GOVERNANCE 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 TO BE ISSUED WITH VISITOR BADGES

CITIZENS ARE ADVISED THAT THIS MEETING MAY BE RECORDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. ANY RECORDING OR REPORTING ON THIS MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON RECORDING AND REPORTING ON PUBLIC MEETINGS, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NOTTINGHAMCITY.GOV.UK](http://WWW.NOTTINGHAMCITY.GOV.UK). INDIVIDUALS INTENDING TO RECORD THE MEETING ARE ASKED TO NOTIFY THE GOVERNANCE OFFICER SHOWN ABOVE IN ADVANCE.

**NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

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

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Civic Centre on  
19 June 2015 from 10.00 - 11.15**

**Membership**

Present

Absent

Mayor Kate Allsop  
Councillor Roger Blaney  
Councillor Cheryl Butler  
Councillor Graham Chapman (Chair)  
Councillor John Clarke  
Councillor Neil Clarke MBE (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Richard Jackson (Broxtowe)  
Councillor Alan Rhodes  
Councillor Jo White

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

David Bishop	- Nottingham City Council
James Schrodell	- Nottingham City Council
James Welbourn	- Nottingham City Council
Allen Graham	- Rushcliffe Borough Council
Neil Taylor	- Bassetlaw District Council
Anthony May	- Nottinghamshire County Council
Ruth Hyde OBE	- Broxtowe Borough Council
Phillip Horsfield	- Broxtowe Borough Council
John Robinson	- Gedling Borough Council
Ben Smith	- Mansfield District Council
Andrew Muter (from 1020)	- Newark and Sherwood District Council
Robert Mitchell	- Ashfield District Council
Richard Kirkland	- D2N2
Mr J Potter	- Observing member of the public (items 1-7)

**1 APOLOGIES**

Ian Curryer  
Glen O'Connell

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None

### **3 MINUTES**

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2015 as a correct record, with the addition of the following:

- (a) Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) has provided funding to increase the broadband coverage across Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood, and Nottinghamshire County Council has matched this funding;
- (b) Allen Graham, Chief Executive of Rushcliffe Borough Council requested a meeting with Nottingham City Council on subject of Broadband, and will report back to this Committee.

### **4 HIGH SPEED 2 CONNECTIVITY**

Ruth Hyde OBE, Chief Executive of Broxtowe Borough Council provided an update on High Speed 2 (HS2) connectivity:

- (a) HS2 must add value to the East Midlands, which would include provision for relocated businesses. Erewash Borough Council has identified a number of businesses in the area that would be displaced by HS2. Major retail development would detract from the role of existing centres;
- (b) greenbelt land in the Derby and Nottingham areas needs to be maintained - locations such as Ashfield, Worksop, Chesterfield, Mansfield and Long Eaton must benefit from this project, rather than suffer;
- (c) the problem of desert stations should be avoided, mainly by integrating HS2 well with the lines in the region, namely East Cost, West Coast and Midland;
- (d) provision for cyclists, pedestrians, buses, and local cars must be allowed for and other transport links such as the tram could link into some hubs;
- (e) the Hub Station delivery board meets on 6 July, with proposals to go back to Broxtowe Borough Council on 7 July;

Questions from councillors provided the following information:

- (f) there is a move to extend the Robin Hood line from Shirebrook; more money from the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) could aid this move;
- (g) the input from Anne Western at Derbyshire County Council was noted, as she was an advocate of Toton being nominated as the East

- (h) the connectivity sub-group meets in the week beginning 22 June and issues over Heritage railway lines, and the Robin Hood line can be fed into this forum.

**RESOLVED to:**

- (1) thank Ruth Hyde for the update;**
- (2) ask Andrew Muter to draft a list of good ideas around HS2 to bring to future meeting;**
- (3) put together timetable on electrification of the line at a future meeting for Gedling Borough Council;**

**5 EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS (ESIF) UPDATE**

Richard Kirkland, European Structural and Investment Fund Coordinator at D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) presented an update on European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), highlighting the following points:

- (a) all LEP's have been given an allocation of funding that they can use at their discretion;
- (b) the European Commission requires all the money to go into certain 'key baskets', with low-carbon and climate change adaptation as one of the focuses;
- (c) ESIF provides 50% of the costs which then have to be matched, in some cases by national bodies, while some organisations (such as colleges or community groups) are required to bring in their own matched funding. In the D2N2 (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire area) region, the national bodies that opt into the matched funding include the Skills Funding Agency, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Big Lottery Fund;

Following questions from Councillors, the following points were raised;

- (d) if the UK were to pull out of Europe, this should not affect the timescales involved with ESIF, although there would be a degree of uncertainty around this;
- (e) the D2N2 LEP would need to make sure that what they are purchasing is the right fit for the particular geographical area, or a potential Combined Authority;

**RESOLVED to:**

- (1) thank Richard Kirkland for the update;**

- (2) **ask Allen Graham to build a bridge between this update, and the work on the Combined Authority and Devolution Deal that is ongoing;**

**6 COMBINED AUTHORITY - PROGRESS UPDATE**

Andrew Muter, Chief Executive of Newark and Sherwood District Council presented the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority Work Programme.

**RESOLVED to note the Work Programme.**

**7 FUTURE MEETING DATES**

**RESOLVED that the Committee will meet on the following Fridays, with one exception noted below;**

24/07/2015  
25/09/2015  
20/11/2015  
18/12/2015  
19/02/2016

The proposed date of 18 March 2016 clashes with another meeting. A new date will be proposed at the July meeting.

**8 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The Committee decided to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the remaining agenda items in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, given the commercial details to be discussed.

**9 EXEMPT MINUTES**

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2015, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC  
PROSPERITY COMMITTEE– 24 JULY 2015**

<b>Subject:</b>	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUSINESS RATES POOL		
<b>Presenting authority / representative):</b>	Nottinghamshire County Council		
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Nigel Stevenson Service Director – Finance and Procurement Nottinghamshire County Council Tel: 0115 9773033 Email: nigel.stevenson@nottscc.gov.uk		
<b>Key Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Subject to call-in</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Value of decision:</b> £392,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital		
<b>Authorities affected:</b> All	<b>Date of consultation with relevant authorities:</b>		
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities):</b>			
<p>The Annual report on Notts Business Rates Pool feeds back the Pool’s 2014-15 final position as discussed at Nottinghamshire Finance Officers Special Meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015), and outlines the changes for the 2014-15 model and suggested changes to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).</p>			
<b>Exempt information:</b>			
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>			
<p>a) To approve the retention of the Pool surplus in 2013/14 (£392,000) for use by the Combined Authority.</p> <p>b) To approve that the 50% of the Pool surplus in 2014/15 and future years would be retained for use by the Combined Authority.</p> <p>c) To approve that the remaining 50% surplus generated in 2014/15 and future years, net of retention for the volatility fund, would be distributed to Pool members in line with the Memorandum of Understanding.</p> <p>d) To approve that the 50/50 distribution approach would be reviewed annually by the Nottinghamshire Chief Executive’s Group.</p> <p>e) To note and support the changes to the 2014/15 model as agreed by Nottinghamshire Finance Officers Group as regards the increase in the volatility retained percentage to 5%.</p> <p>f) Recommend that work is commissioned into Pool membership funded from the cumulative surplus in the Pool.</p>			

**1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The pool generated a surplus in 2013/14 and current modelling suggests that the pool will continue to generate a surplus for the foreseeable future;
- 1.2 The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (N2) Combined Authority will take strategic decisions to grow the N2 economy, and Leaders have previously discussed allocating a portion of the surplus to the N2 CA to support this work;

- 1.3 The City Council, who are not a member of the pool, have agreed to financially support the N2 CA on a pro rata basis with the City contribution to the N2 CA proportionate to the City's share of the overall N2 population.

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

- 2.1 See the REPORT OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – LEAD AUTHORITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUSINESS RATES POOL at **Annex A**.

**3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 See the REPORT OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – LEAD AUTHORITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUSINESS RATES POOL at **Annex A**.

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

- 4.1 See the REPORT OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – LEAD AUTHORITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUSINESS RATES POOL at **Annex A**.

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

- 5.1 None.

**6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

**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)**

- 8.1 None.



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

9.1 See the REPORT OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – LEAD AUTHORITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUSINESS RATES POOL at **Annex A**.

**10 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT**

10.1 None

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19 June 2015

**REPORT OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL –  
LEAD AUTHORITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUSINESS RATES POOL**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To update feedback from the 2014-15 final position as discussed at Nottinghamshire Finance Officers Special Meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015).
2. To outline the changes for the 2014-15 model and suggested changes from the MOU

**Background**

3. In 2014-15 the Nottinghamshire Pool results are £3.177m retained rates held locally in the Pool. The NFOG group suggested that the Volatility fund be increased to 5% from the current 2%, bearing in mind the volatility shown over the last two years and looking into the future of the Pool. This would be enough to cover the safety net payments of £58,256 to Broxtowe and Rushcliffe. This would be reflected in the allocation percentages used for the distribution of future surpluses from the Pool to member authorities.
4. After administration and volatility fund deductions, this left a surplus of £3.009m.

**Table 1 – 2014/15 Pool Outturn**

Authority	Individual Retained Growth £'000	Contribution into Pool £'000	Pool surplus £'000	Contribution to Pool Admin £'000	Contribution to Volatility Fund £'000	Contribution to Safety Net Payments £'000	Safety Net Payment received £'000
Ashfield	359	-449	248	2	22	8	0
Bassetlaw	1,345	-1,681	807	5	84	31	
Broxtowe	0	0	34	0	0	0	-6
Gedling	26	-32	50	0	2	1	0
Mansfield	53	-66	73	0	3	1	0
Nwk & Sh	759	-949	472	3	47	17	0
Rushcliffe	0	0	28	0	0	0	0
Notts CC	572	0	1,298	0	0	0	-52
Notts Fire	64						
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,177</b>	<b>-3,177</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>-58</b>

<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>0</b>		
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5. Nottinghamshire Chief Executive's Group considered a paper recommending the surplus from the pool be distributed back to authorities on the basis outlined in the original Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). However, the individual Political Leadership at some authorities wish to explore the possibility of retaining a core fund to help economic growth priorities with the proposed Combined Authority. Currently the Pool surplus is held by the County on behalf of the pool until agreement is reached. Prior to April 2015 the suggestion was to retain the surplus generated in 2013/14 of £392,000 with a potential to increase this to £500,000 from surpluses generated in 2014/15. (Appendix A)

**Table 2 – 2014/15 Pool Cumulative Position**

	<b>Volatility</b>	<b>Pool Surplus</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>2013-14</b>	8,026	392,000
<b>2014-15</b>	158,361	3,008,867
<b>Safety net 2014-15</b>	(58,256)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>108,131</b>	<b>3,400,867</b>

6. At the Nottinghamshire Chief Executive's Group (NCEG) meeting, 3 July 2015, a revised proposal was made to retain the £392,000 surplus from 2013/14 for the Combined Authority (CA) and to set future year's contributions to the CA at 50% of the surpluses generated in year. The remainder, after retention for the volatility fund, would be returned to Pool members. The 50/50 split would decision would be reviewed on an annual basis by the NCEG. The implications of this decision on the existing Pool surplus would be as follows:

	<b>Pool Surplus</b>	<b>Retained for N2</b>	<b>Returned to Districts / NCC</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>2013-14</b>	392,000	392,000	0
<b>2014-15</b>	3,008,867	1,504,434	1,504,434
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,400,867</b>	<b>1,896,434</b>	<b>1,504,434</b>

7. Considering the potential future implications of the Combined Authority it may be worth commissioning work to examine the impact of changes in membership of the Pool, in particular the impact upon the Pool of an option for Nottingham City Council to join the Pool.

### **Recommendations**

8. To approve the retention of the Pool surplus in 2013/14 (£392,000) for use by the Combined Authority.
9. To approve that the 50% of the Pool surplus in 2014/15 and future years would be retained for use by the Combined Authority.

10. To approve that the remaining 50% surplus generated in 2014/15 and future years, net of retention for the volatility fund, would be distributed to Pool members in line with the MoU.
11. To approve that the 50/50 distribution approach would be reviewed annually by the Nottinghamshire Chief Executive's Group.
12. To note and support the changes to the 2014/15 model as agreed by NFOG officers as regards the increase in the volatility retained percentage to 5%.
13. Recommend that work is commissioned into Pool membership funded from the cumulative surplus in the Pool.

**Nigel Stevenson – Service Director Finance & Procurement  
Nottinghamshire County Council**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:  
Glen.Bicknell@nottscc.gov.uk or Laura.McCreedy@nottscc.gov.uk.  
Appendix A – Previous Decisions**

## **Original MOU**

### **Volatility fund at 2% of pool surplus**

- Where sufficient resources allow, the Pool will operate with a local safety net of –2%. The calculation of which is based upon the governments methodology of calculating the safety net i.e. 2% of the needs baseline
- if there are insufficient resources within the fund at the end of a financial year to meet the local safety net (based on levy receipts in year and existing resources within the fund from previous years), resources will be allocated up to a safety net level that the fund is able to support, with any higher levels of payment already made, refunded to the fund.

#### Share of balance of Pool funds:-

- A: The running costs of the pool will be paid to the lead authority.
- B: Each individual authority, where resources allow, will receive the same level of funding they would have received without the Pool (excluding running costs).
- The remaining amount will be the net retained levy.

If after commitment A, Commitment B cannot be met, each authority will receive an allocation of resources proportional to the amount that would have been received without the pool. For example, if £10m was required to meet commitment B and only £9.8m in resources was available, each authority would receive 98% of the amount that would have been received without the pool.

**Share 48% on basis of share of levy**

**Share 50% on basis of spending base line**

#### **NCEG – Jan 2015**

**Hold all surpluses generated in 2013/14 (£392,000) for N2 Combined Authority with potential to increase to £500,000 from surpluses in 2014/15.**

#### **NFOG – May 2015**

**Closedown on basis of Volatility fund at 5% of pool surplus and to meet safety net from this accumulated fund**

**Therefore reducing shares**

**46.5% on basis of levy**

**48.5% on basis of spending base line**

**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC  
PROSPERITY COMMITTEE– 24 JULY 2015**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>INVITE TO VISIT ADASTRAL PARK</b>		
<b>Presenting authority / representative):</b>	Nottinghamshire County Council/Matt Lockley, Economic Development Team Manager & Nicola M <sup>c</sup> Coy-Brown, Broadband Programme Manager		
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Matt Lockley & Nicola M <sup>c</sup> Coy-Brown ☎ 0115 977 2580 <a href="mailto:nicola.mccoypbrown@nottscc.gov.uk">nicola.mccoypbrown@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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>Value of decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital		
<b>Authorities affected:</b> Nottinghamshire local authorities	<b>Date of consultation with relevant authorities:</b>		
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities):</b>			
<p>Access to fast and reliable broadband is vital infrastructure for supporting growth, particularly in rural areas. It also makes communication between people, businesses and public agencies easier and is essential to achieving the Government's public service reform agenda (Local Government Association, 2015).</p> <p>By visiting (overnight) BT's global innovation and development centre at Adastral Park, public sector leaders within the city and county will be able to experience, at first hand, the latest technological innovations in the communications sector with a view to shaping the way economic growth and public service transformation can be supported in the future.</p>			
<b>Exempt information:</b>			
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) approval is given for a Nottinghamshire delegation, consisting of no more than two representatives from each organisation represented on the Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC), the Chairman of the County Council's Economic Development Committee, Senior County Council officers and up to two members of the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire Programme Delivery Team attend Adastral Park (Ipswich, Suffolk) on either Friday 4<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015;</li> <li>2) the EPC accepts BTs offer to host the evening meal and light refreshments throughout the visit;</li> <li>3) EPC representatives attending Adastral Park arrange, through their respective organisations, the funding to cover the overnight costs (expected to be in the region of £74 per representative);</li> <li>4) a mini bus/coach be hired to transport all attendees to and from Adastral Park (to be fully funded by the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire Programme).</li> </ol>			

## **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 Further investment in broadband is a key priority for government investment and for all Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) members. The £29M being spent across the city and county to extend the reach of the fibre broadband network as part of the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire programme (BBfN), provides the opportunity to transform the landscape of local

government and its economy by driving growth, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), competitiveness and employment;

- 1.2 In addition to this infrastructure investment, the other major strategy for empowering the city and county is through devolving more power to local authorities. Devolution will make the local government leaner and more effective in running the local economy by aligning the incentives of the local government with the local economy;
- 1.3 Against this backdrop, a visit to Adastral Park will ensure that the Nottinghamshire delegation experiences, at first hand, the latest technological innovations in the communications sector with a view to shaping the way economic growth and public service transformation are supported in the future.

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

- 2.1 As BBfN enters its second wave of delivery of fibre broadband in key underserved throughout the city and county, it is recommended that a group of Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) representatives see for themselves the latest developments in connectivity and experiences the transformational properties that a fibre infrastructure can yield. By the time BBfN ceases in 2018, the programme will have provided close to 80,000 premises (both business and residential) with the ability to access fibre broadband;
- 2.2 Paul Bimson, BT's Regional Partnership Director, has invited the EPC to send a delegation to visit BT's global innovation and development centre at Adastral Park, Ipswich, Suffolk on either 4<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015;
- 2.3 Adastral Park is also the home of Innovation Martlesham – a joint initiative by BT, Local Authorities and the Haven Gateway Partnership that has brought an established high-tech cluster of ICT companies to the Park. It would therefore also be an opportunity to see this project first hand;
- 2.4 Adastral Park was launched in 1999, and is recognised as one of the leading centres of technical innovation in the communication world, specialising in pioneering work in optical technologies and digital switching, through to work in advanced software techniques and protocols. It is one of the biggest centres for jobs and commercial activity in the East of England and is now home to more than 20 other companies, supporting around 4,000 jobs and bringing more than £800 million into the local economy each year;
- 2.5 It is suggested that the city and county delegation consists of no more than two representatives from each organisation represented on the EPC, the Chairman of the County Council's Economic Development Committee, Senior County Council officers and up to two members of the Project Delivery team;
- 2.6 Given that Adastral Park is located in Suffolk, an overnight stay is highly recommended; that way the delegation can optimise on their time at the Park. BT will provide refreshments throughout the visit and will also host a dinner on the evening on 3<sup>rd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> September, dependent on which dates is chosen by the EPC delegation;



- 2.7 The suggested agenda for the day would involve the delegation experiencing, at first hand, BT's latest innovations and a tour of the 4 acre site (to include tours of the government and local community showcase and the home and retail supply chain);
- 2.8 EPC representatives would be expected to cover the cost of the overnight hotel accommodation. BT have arranged a discounted cost at Seckford Hall (which is a few minutes from Adastral Park) where the cost for a room only rate (single occupation) is £74.00 per person per night;
- 2.9 It is suggested that attendees travel together by mini bus/coach which would be fully funded through the BBfN programme revenue costs;
- 2.10 Members are reminded that BBfN Contract 2 on-the-ground network build officially comes into operation Q4 2016/17 (i.e. Jan to March 2017). However, the County Council are currently reviewing with both BT and Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK - the Government agency which oversees BBfN) how this timeline can be accelerated;

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

- 3.1 The Committee could decide not to agree to a delegation visiting Adastral Park.

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

- 4.1 As noted above, the costs for travel and food for the trip will be fully funded. However, EPC attendees will be expected to cover the cost of the overnight accommodation.

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

- 5.1 There are no financial risks on any party.

### **6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 None

### **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)**



BT\_ID\_Brochure\_v10  
.pdf

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

[Local Government Association \(LGA\) Briefing](#), Westminster  
Hall debate, Superfast broadband roll-out – 24.6.2015

[Devolution Proposals](#) – 3.2015

**10 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT**

Jayne Francis Ward, Corporate Director PPCS, Nottinghamshire County Council

**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC  
PROSPERITY COMMITTEE- 24 JULY 2015**

<b>Subject:</b>	N2 Collaborative 'Employment and Skills Hub'		
<b>Presenting authority / representative):</b>	Allen Graham Rushcliffe Borough Council		
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Fiona Anderson Nottinghamshire County Council Tel. 0115 9772688 fiona.anderson@nottscc.gov.uk		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Subject to call-in</b>
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Value of decision:</b>	£ 0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> Capital
<b>Authorities affected:</b>	All		
	<b>Date of consultation with relevant authorities:</b>		
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities):</b>			
<p>a) To reduce the skills shortage across N2 by more effectively matching labour supply and demand</p> <p>b) To facilitate economic growth by increasing the number of skilled workers/employees available to N2 employers</p> <p>c) To reduce duplication and simplify the landscape for N2 employers</p>			
<b>Exempt information:</b>			
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>			
<p>a) To support in principle the creation of a bid which results in the development of a 2 collaborative 'Employment and Skills Hub';</p> <p>b) N2 to prepare and submit a bid for the ESIF 'Employ Local' project for resources to deliver relevant services to employers and job seekers;</p> <p>c) Futures Advice, Skills and Employment to be the lead bidder on behalf of a combined N2 partnership approach;</p> <p>d) If successful with the Employ Local bid, agreement from N2 partners to align current similar Employment and Skills activity under the Employ Local initiative.</p>			

**1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The establishment of an N2 'Employment and Skills Hub' aligns with the wider vision of devolving skills funding and responsibility to the Combined Authority;

- 1.2 The EPC has supported the Local Enterprise Partnership view that a more coherent offer for both employers and employees is required. The concept of an 'Employment and Skills Hub' builds upon the principles of the Nottingham City Employer Hub and is strategically aligned to creating a simplified process for Employers, Job Seekers and Public Sector Agencies;
- 1.3 Futures Advice, Skills and Employment (a not for profit company jointly owned by the City and County Councils) has experience and a track record of success in accessing and delivering Skills Funding Agency and European Funded projects;
- 1.4 The employer incentives built into 'Employ Local' could help to drive growth in the priority sectors as outlined in the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan, however this will need to be integrated with additional localised delivery mechanisms which make sense for employers, citizens and Government Agencies;
- 1.5 The establishment of the 'Employment and Skills Hub' will utilise existing infrastructure from the partnership to reduce costs and avoid duplication, whilst building upon localised best practice;
- 1.6 This approach contributes to the integration of Economic Development services and closer working of the Districts, County and City Councils in accordance with the combined Authority proposals.

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

- 2.1 In line with the EPC approach, there is an opportunity to consider how some of the principles of the Employer Hub model (operating in the City) might benefit the wider N2 geography;
- 2.2 The current opportunity to access EU Funds could be used to support the introduction of a City and County wide approach. The ESF project, 'Employ Local' is aligned to support the potential operation of a hub model and could bring a more collaborative, high quality recruitment and support service to local employers and job seekers, through building upon best practice, aligning and developing local programmes;
- 2.3 'Employ Local' is being commissioned by D2N2 and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), it will be a competitive process. It is therefore an opportunity for the Economic Prosperity Committee to demonstrate its commitment to work together by submitting one bid. It also provides the opportunity to have a European bid designed to support the delivery of locally managed and directed services which maximises the value for the local area whilst aligning with existing activity. Given the resource limitations of the funding, one of the ways in which this might be achievable is for local partners to work together using established models and augmenting these to suit local needs;
- 2.4 'Employ Local' is aimed at people who are unemployed including graduates, who may benefit from an intervention to enable them to find a graduate level job;

- 2.5 'Employ Local' is an 'opt-in' via the SFA, this means that match funding is not required. 'Employ Local' will be £6m across the D2N2 LEP area, due to need, £3.2m has been allocated for N2 over a 3 year period. This figure includes an amount for employer incentives. Please see Appendix 1 for a draft outline summary of 'Employ Local';
- 2.6 Following the 'Hub' agenda item at the March 2015 EPC, discussions have taken place with Economic Development Officers from across the City, County, District and Borough Councils; Futures and the DWP. In principle, all parties are committed to the concept of an N2 'Employment and Skills Hub' and have indicated that, subject to political support, we should take the opportunity to work across the N2 area to prepare a bid for Employ Local;
- 2.7 It is recognised and proposed that where necessary that we will look to engage with neighbouring areas e.g. Derbyshire and Sheffield to ensure there is a coherent approach beyond the N2 boundaries for businesses.

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

- 3.1 One option is to do nothing; this would mean that the strategic opportunity to align N2 skills and employment activities within one hub model would be significantly delayed. It would also result in the potential loss of £3.2 million funding;
- 3.2 Another option is for the City or County Council to bid for Employ Local for the whole of the N2 area. However, this may result in competitive bids from other partners. It is proposed that a joint bid involving all Districts, City and County Councils should be led by Futures. A bid of this nature which is on behalf of N2 would more effectively demonstrate our collective commitment to the proposed Combined Authority.

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

- 4.1 N2 is seeking to secure £3.2m of European Social Fund to deliver 'Employ Local' via an integrated employment and skills hub. This funding is available for a three year period to deliver specific outcomes. Although the ESIF programme is until 2020, consideration needs to be given to the long term sustainability of such a model.

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

- 5.1 None.

### **6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

## **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)**

8.1 None

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

9.1 EPC Minutes March 20<sup>th</sup> 'Skills Hub'

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

Allen Graham, Rushcliffe Borough Council  
Kevin Bartlett, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Catherine Evans, Rushcliffe Borough Council  
Nigel Jackson, Nottingham City Council

## Appendix 1

### **Summary of Employ Local**

The programme will provide:

- A one point of contact service for employers to include:
  - Support with recruitment e.g. advertising vacancies, screening applications, interview days.
  - Support to take on an apprentice, providing advice, guidance and practical help to the employer through the process.
  - Financial incentives to create apprenticeships and jobs in SME's.
  - Employment and training incentives to support SME'S with initial training costs of previously unemployed new recruits.
- Support for candidates to engage them with the candidate bank and to make sure they are job ready, to include:
  - Working with existing SFA funded providers to deliver ongoing sector based work academies based upon the specifications of the employer.
  - Active management of the candidate bank of job ready individuals for employers.
  - Bespoke pre-employment training, based upon needs highlighted by sector consultative task groups where this is not available through mainstream funded provision
- Travel bursaries for trainees and apprentices in the first few weeks of work.

People who will benefit from this programme are:

- Individuals who have been unemployed for 6 months+
- Young people aged 16 – 24 who are currently NEET
- Individuals who originally had multiple barriers to accessing work (those supported through the Social Inclusion and Time to Change projects)
- Unemployed graduates who have not previously had a graduate job

The D2N2 area will benefit from:

- 5578 unemployed people engaging with the EMPLOY Local service
- 3000 unemployed people completing purposeful training
- 1231 unemployed people progressing into employment and self-employment
- 1000 unemployed people progressing into apprenticeships
- 290 incentives to support SMEs providing employment and training
- 510 incentives to support SMEs to employ long-term unemployed
- 800 incentives to support SMEs to recruit an Apprentice

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