

THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2023 AT 9.30 AM AT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

(A* denotes absent from the meeting but joined remotely, without voting rights)

Chairman – Councillor Ben Bradley MP – Nottinghamshire County Council – A*

Mayor Andy Abrahams – Mansfield District Council
Councillor John Clarke MBE – Gedling Borough Council
Councillor James Naish – Bassetlaw District Council – A*
Councillor David Lloyd – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Councillor David Mellen – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Milan Radulovic – Broxtowe Borough Council
Councillor Simon Robinson – Rushcliffe Borough Council
Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Ashfield District Council – A

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Bruce Laughton for Councillor Ben Bradley MP
Councillor Matthew Relf for Councillor Jason Zadrozny

OFFICERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

(*Denotes joined remotely)

David Armiger – Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council*
Hannah Barrett – Economic Development Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council
Mel Barrett – Chief Executive, Nottingham City Council - A
Matt Colver – Senior Communications and Marketing Business Partner, Nottinghamshire County Council*
Derek Higon – Interim Corporate Director, Place Nottinghamshire County Council - A
Adam Hill – Chief Executive, Mansfield District Council*
Mike Hill – Chief Executive, Gedling Borough Council
Theresa Hodgkinson – Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council
Ruth Hyde – Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council
Liz Leivers – Project Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council
Kath Marriott – Chief Executive, Rushcliffe Borough Council - A
John Robinson – Chief Executive, Newark & Sherwood District Council
Sajeeda Rose – Corporate Director for Growth and City Development, Nottingham City Council - A
Adrian Smith – Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council

Noel McMenamin – Democratic Services Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council

SUBSTITUTE OFFICERS

(*Denotes joined remotely)

Nicki Jenkins – Director of Economic Development and Property, Nottingham City Council for Mel Barrett

Catherine Evans – Service Manager for Economic Growth and Property for Kath Marriott

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2022, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed for signing by the Chair of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ben Bradley MP, although he subsequently joined the meeting remotely. In Councillor Bradley's absence, the Chair was taken by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor David Mellen for this meeting.

Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor Jason Zadrozny and from Councillor James Naish, who joined the meeting remotely, inputting into the debate without voting.

Apologies were also received from Mel Barrett and Sajeeda Rose (Nottingham City Council), Kath Marriott (Rushcliffe Borough Council) and Derek Higton (Nottinghamshire County Council).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. JOINT WORKING AND DEVOLUTION PROGRAMME UPDATE

Adrian Smith introduced the report, which focussed on the need to secure formal approval to fund support for the Devolution programme for a further 12 months. Mr Smith made the following points:

- the dedicated team had been instrumental in helping deliver the ambitious Devolution Deal schedule and the subsequent consultation and engagement exercise;
- the Devolution programme was now entering into a preparatory period of transition. It was intended that shadow arrangements would be in place by the summer of 2023, depending on the successful passage of the Devolution Bill through to Royal Assent;

- A huge amount of work would be required between now and May 2024 to ensure that the Combined Authority was established by that point, and the dedicated resource was vital to ensure that this was delivered successfully;
- Colleagues across the D2N2 footprint would continue to contribute to the development of the wider Devolution programme.

During discussions, Members raised the following issues:

- It was explained that cash and in-kind contributions from Derby, Nottingham, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire towards the costs of delivering the Devolution programme were broadly equivalent;
- While it was correct to say that the funding requested from the Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) pool represented the biggest single contribution to overall cost, it was pointed out that having the NNDR pool in place meant that there wasn't the same option to call on General Fund monies in Nottinghamshire as there was in Derbyshire;
- The point was also made that the professional management teams at senior level across lead authorities were all playing an equitable role in delivering the Devolution programme; while lead authorities' leaders remained as committed as ever to delivering the programme;
- An equitable funding mechanism across constituent authorities would form a key part of the structures to be put in place for the Combined Authority, once established. However, it was crucial for the delivery of the next phase of the programme that it was properly resourced through the proposed funding through the NNDR pool;
- There was support for the view that there needed to be greater Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire joint working at district as well as at upper tier levels, and it was acknowledged that some momentum had been lost through not pursuing more formal joint working arrangements at an earlier stage. However, the view was expressed that a Nottinghamshire-only committee or forum would continue to be required;
- The view was expressed that the collaborative work programme needed greater emphasis on the enhancing and protecting the natural environment, and that a more co-ordinated approach in respect of Net Zero initiatives was required to maximise the benefits of collaborative working. In response it was explained that there was already a lot of collaborative work in these areas, but was acknowledged that it should be made more explicit within the programme;
- The point was made that the potential areas for focus for the programme team appeared to reflect existing local government powers rather than also including new devolved powers;

- While there had been success in securing additional in-year capital funding to support the retrofitting homes, given the complex approvals processes involved the money was now expected to be received in 2023-2024;
- The point was made that different areas of collaborative activity could scale differently and that a one size fits all approach across the D2N2 footprint might not always be appropriate;
- It was confirmed that there was ongoing engagement with the Local Enterprise Partnership to explore making use of its resources and capacity as the programme developed

RESOLVED 2023/001

That:

- 1) progress to date on the devolution and joint working programme be endorsed;
- 2) the allocation of £450,000 from the National Non-Domestic Rates pool to support the work of the devolution and joint working programme in 2023-24 be approved;
- 3) any additional areas of focus beyond those listed in paragraph 35 of the published report for collaborative working opportunities be advised;
- 4) reporting by exception on the £450,000 allocation Chief Executives, to provide monitoring and oversight of the funding, be agreed.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to meet on Friday 16 June 2023.

The meeting closed at 10.10 am

CHAIRMAN