

**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC
PROSPERITY COMMITTEE – 25 JULY 2014**

Subject:	Managing the Business of the Economic Prosperity Committee		
Presenting authority / representative):	Nottinghamshire Chief Executives		
Report author and contact details:	John Robinson, Gedling Borough Council, 0115 9013915 John.robinson@gedling.gov.uk		
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in
Value of decision: Nil			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Authorities affected: All Nottinghamshire local authorities			<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital
	Date of consultation with relevant authorities: Notts. Chief Executives – 11 July 2014		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities):			
This report proposes a number of practical steps to aid the smooth running of the EPC and to ensure that its business is well organised, inclusive and purposeful.			
Exempt information: None			
Recommendation(s):			
It is recommended that the Economic Prosperity Committee agrees to:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) structure future meetings as outlined in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.5; (ii) recommend to D2N2 the inclusion of a District/Borough representative on the Employment and Skills Commission; (iii) nominate a District/Borough representative to the Nottingham Growth Board and to Nottinghamshire Business Engagement Group; (iv) invite business representatives (and other relevant stakeholders) to attend meetings of the Committee as and when appropriate to the business before the Committee. 			

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 To improve the administration of the EPC and maximise its impact.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 At the meeting of the Economic Prosperity Committee on 16 May 2014, Leaders asked for a review of the management arrangements of the Committee with a particular focus on:-

- setting and agreeing agendas
- horizon scanning for upcoming issues and ensuring they are allocated to future meetings so members knew when key future issues would be discussed

- developing an agreed work programme which tracked and implemented Committee decisions with clear responsibilities
- building in updates to the Committee for other groups.

2.2 As reported to the last Committee, the regular meetings of Nottinghamshire Chief Executives have been re-scheduled to fall three weeks before meetings of the EPC. This will provide an opportunity for discussion on the draft agenda before the papers are dispatched and allow liaison between Chief Executives and their Leaders.

2.3 With regard to the business of the Committee, it is proposed that future agendas are organised around:

- consideration of a strategic theme, to include oversight of key projects/initiatives within that theme;
- feedback from and into D2N2

2.4 In practice, this would mean the first part of each meeting being devoted to one of the following thematic areas – with examples of the type of business that might feature under each theme being shown as detailed below.

Theme	Sub-theme
Employment and skills	N2 Skills and Employment Board and sub-groups
	NN Futures – local authority owned company.
	DWP / SFA commissioned activity
	Employer and apprentice hubs
	FE colleges
Business growth	Variety of separately commissioned projects (i.e. Growth 100; NBV start-up support; Funding Circle)
	Nottingham Investment Fund / N'Tech
	D2N2 Growth Hub
	Growth Accelerator / Manufacturing Advisory Service / UKTI
	Innovation centres / incubators
Place marketing	Nottingham Means Business
	'Invest in' programmes in several boroughs / districts
	Invest in Nottingham team
	Experience Nottinghamshire
	Various tourism functions / activity at borough / district level
	Heritage / culture / leisure offer and assets
	Town centre renewal / redevelopment
Infrastructure and assets	Nottingham Enterprise Zone
	Nottinghamshire Business Investment Zones
	Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire
	Local Transport Plans / programmes
	Major housing sites

2.5 The second part of each meeting would include a small number of 'standing items' that will provide an opportunity for feedback from the D2N2 Board, along with the

various other bodies that have linkages with it. In doing so, it is hoped that this would not only help to raise awareness of what activity is taking place but also prompt questions and invite challenge that can be pursued by N2's representatives on the D2N2 Board and other bodies. Standing items would also include regular updates on growth deal projects and ESIF together with a six month performance report on the 'state' of the economy.

- 2.6 Turning to the matter of governance and representation, the diagrams at Appendix 1 show the current arrangements. These are undoubtedly complex and seemingly cumbersome and over-elaborate. However, the scope for rationalisation is limited given the requirements of the LEP (for example to have a dedicated ESIF Programme Board), the fact that some bodies cover the whole of D2N2 (for example, the Local Transport Body and Employment and Skills Commission) and the need to engage 9 local authorities in N2 as well as the business community.
- 2.7 In time, and subject to how the EPC evolves, it may be possible to subsume the work of other bodies within the EPC. For now though, it is proposed to address some inconsistencies and weaknesses in District/Borough representation.
- 2.8 The absence of any District/Borough representation on the Nottinghamshire Business Engagement Group, the Nottingham Growth Board or the D2N2 Employment and Skills Commission fails to sufficiently recognise the locality links with businesses and District/Borough contributions to the County, City and conurbation economies.
- 2.9 While it is not practicable for every District to be represented on everything, it is proposed:-
- that N2 recommends to the D2N2 Board the inclusion of a District/Borough representative on the Employment and Skills Commission
 - that a representative of one of the 'conurbation' Districts/Boroughs be nominated to the Nottingham Growth Board
 - that a District/Borough representatives be nominated to the Nottinghamshire Business Engagement Group.
- 2.10 Finally, one of the outstanding items for the EPC to resolve is business representation on the Committee. At the February meeting, it was agreed to invite the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire private sector representatives on the D2N2 Board as advisors to the Committee. That has not proved forthcoming, so as an alternative, it is proposed to invite private sector representatives and other relevant stakeholders as and when appropriate.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

Doing nothing is an option but that is not considered to be in the best interests of the Committee.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 At present, the only resource that is dedicated to the management of the Committee is the sum of £30,000 to support the host authority with secretariat responsibilities.

4.2 At this stage, it is not proposed to allocate any further resource but rather to keep this under review and subject to clarification about the Committee's role in relation to the European Structural Investment Fund and a future decision on Combined Authorities.

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

None.

6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Not applicable.

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

Minutes of EPC dated 16 May 2014.

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

None.

10 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT

Nottinghamshire Chief Executives
Matt Lockley, Economic Development Team Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council.







