



County Durham
Economic Partnership

MINUTES

Meeting	County Durham Economic Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	Monday 18 July 2011
Time of Meeting	13.00 – 15:30
Venue	Committee Room 1B, County Hall

Attendees:

Ken Jarrold	Chair
Tarryn Lloyd Payne	DCC, CDEP Secretariat
Joanne Willey	DCC, CDEP Secretariat
Ivor Stolliday	Chair of Visit County Durham
Cllr Neil Foster	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Regeneration
Sarah Robson	Chair of Place Shaping Working Group
Ian Thompson	Director of Regeneration and Economic Development
Stuart Thompson	Federation of Small Businesses
Bryan Hoare	Durham Business Club
Brian Manning	Chair of Employment and Skills Group
Alex Nelson	Chair of the Transport and Planning Forum
Melanie Sensicle	Visit County Durham
Paul Chapman	Job Centre Plus
Jonathan Walker	North East Chamber of Commerce
Paul Kelly	Durham County Council
Pauline Lubacz	Durham University

Guest speakers

Peter McDowell	Durham County Council
Kaye Rideout	Avanta
Stuart Matthew	Ingeus
Lesley Anne Kirk	Ingeus
Andy Palmer	Durham County Council

Apologies

Ian West	Seaward Group
John Lyle	Derwentside Engineering Forum
Sue Parkinson	Chair of the Business and Enterprise Working Group
Ray Hudson	Durham University
John Widdowson	Chair of the Employment and Skills Executive Group
Adrian White	Durham County Council
Glyn Hall	Chair of Housing Forum
Cllr Eddie Tomlinson	Chair of Rural Working Group
Graham Wood	Economic Regeneration Manager

1. Minutes of last meeting, 4 April 2011

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

- The CDEA will be shortly uploaded to the website. Partners will be informed by email with a link.

3. Chairs Remarks

Ken Jarrold's remarks covered the following areas:

The Economic situation in the UK, and internationally

- The Federal debt crisis in the USA [the main export market for County Durham firms], the continuing debt crisis in the Eurozone and the lack of demand in the UK economy were all causes for grave concern. UK households have seen the biggest fall in disposable income for more than 30 years.

Recent Meetings

- Ken attended a scrutiny meeting and there had been a good discussion about the economic issues facing the County. Members had expressed some concern about the modest targets in the Delivery Plan. Ken had stressed the need for realism.
- Ken attended the NECC Durham Committee meeting and was pleased to see 3 of its Board members are also members of the CDEP Board. The Chair of the Committee had concluded that the CDEP "had taken a huge step forward".
- The Queens Lifetime Achievement Award for Enterprise has been awarded to Ron Batty who was CE of the CDC Enterprise Agency.

Ken highlighted the main points from the paper he produced following individual meetings with Board members. The Board agreed that this was an accurate record and endorsed the key issues and priorities.

Update Items

4. Business Engagement – Peter McDowell

Peter introduced the report and set out the purpose. Comments were received from the Board:

- Feedback from board members focused on a need for further understanding about the purpose of the forum, what it would do, what incentive was there for businesses to attend.

ACTION: It was agreed that the report would be reviewed by Ian Thompson and the DCC Business Services to make changes in light of the comments received. A further report would come back to the Board.

5. BDUK Update

- BDUK stands for Broadband Development UK and has been created within DCMS as a delivery vehicle for the Government's policies on broadband
- A bid was submitted to Government by DCC for funding however the bid was not successful.
- Further improvements to the bid are being made following the feedback received
- It is hoped that the bid will be approved and the money received soon
- Paul Chapman noted that there are Digital Champions in every Job Centre and emphasised the opportunities for joint working

6. Spending Cuts

Durham County Council

- The workforce will be reduced by 1,600 over the next 3-4 years
- A large number of applications have been received for Early Redundancy/Early Retirement
- 240 members of staff have already left through natural means since January 2011
- There have been 53 compulsory redundancies since January 2011
- 400 members of staff are going through retraining and change management programmes
- A package of support is being made available to staff to help with job hunting and business start ups.

Businesses

- Figures showed that there were 7% fewer business start ups compared to the same period in 2010.

Good news

- There is growth for ROMAG
- Paper Chase have opened a store in Durham creating 7 new jobs
- International Cuisine will create 150 new jobs
- Rushlift have won a major new contract that will create 30 new jobs
- The GT group will create 200 new jobs

It was agreed that the Board would receive a report on employment at each meeting and that colleagues from Job Centre Plus would assist with the preparation of the report.

7. LEP Update

- The LEP Board has been established and has 2 members based in County Durham, they are: David Land of Thyssen Krupp (also a member of the CDEP Employment and Skills Group) and Arnab Basu of Kromek
- Paul Woolston of PWC LLP will chair the LEP

ACTION: Ken Jarrold will write to the 2 Durham members to explore opportunities for working together including attendance at CDEP Board meetings.

8. Work Programme

Paul Chapman informed the group of the structural changes to Job Centre Plus. Paul will be the new representative on the Board. Paul emphasised that JCP will retain responsibility for the vast majority of unemployed people.

Kaye Rideout provided an overview on Avanta and the services they will be providing for the work programme.

Stuart Murphy and Lesley Anne Kirk provided an overview on Igneous and the services they will be providing for the work programme.

It was clear that the Work Programme had a number of features that distinguished it from previous programmes including;

- A commercial approach
- Competition
- Intensity
- Flexibility
- A local approach

ACTION:

A copy of all presentations will be circulated with the minutes.

Ken Jarrold thanked all speakers and wished them well in what will be an immensely challenging task ahead given that there needed to be “jobs to go to” if the programme was to succeed.

9. Altogether Wealthier Delivery Plan

Andy Palmer introduced the delivery plan and informed the Board that this had already been approved by working group chairs.

Comments:

- It was noted that there was no mention in the plan about how AAP's will be engaged
- There is no theme on perception and profile of the County

ACTION:

Andy Palmer and Paulina Lubacz to discuss AAP involvement. The Plan to be amended to include a theme on perception and profile.

10. Working Group Chairs Update

Place Shaping

The last meeting took place in June and discussed Strategic housing, sites and numbers, the Stanley Masterplan, RDA assets and a presentation on the housing regeneration programme.

Transport

The last meeting scheduled in June was cancelled. The next meeting will take place in October.

Employment and Skills

The group has not recently met and is in a period of refreshment. The future of the group is yet to be decided as there are proposals about merging with Tyne and Wear and Northumberland in order to have a stronger voice working closely with Andrew Hodgson Vice Chair of the LEP.

Previous updates mentioned the group planned to submit a bid for RGF for the young ambassador's scheme; however advice was given not to go ahead as it was felt the project was not big enough.

Voluntary and Community Sector

Due to the state of the economy, there is a lot more demand and fewer resources available.

Visitor Economy

The National Tourist Board is now divided into 3 groups: Industry advisory Board, Destination Forum and the Visitor Economy Forum.

North East Tourism Alliance is engaged with the LEP.

There is a Visitor Economy Representative on the LEP Board

Culture

The Cultural Partnership has met twice. Tony Durcan has been appointed as independent chair.

11. Any other business

There was no other business discussed.

12. Date and times of next meeting

Monday 31st October, Committee Room 1B – 13.00 to 16.00