



County Durham
Economic Partnership

MINUTES

Meeting	County Durham Economic Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	Friday 8 th November 2019
Time	13.00 – 15.00
Venue	Executive Meeting Room, County Hall

Attendees:

Brian Tanner (BT)	Chair
Sue Parkinson (SP)	Resources
Brian Archer (BA)	Business Competitiveness
Jon Gluyas (JG)	Ideas and Innovation
Joanna Laverick (JL)	VCS Voice
Andy Bailey (ACB)	Partnerships, Durham County Council
Angela Brown (AB)	Partnerships, Durham County Council

Speakers

Michael Fleming (MF)	Durham County Council
John Mitchell (JM)	Durham County Council

Apologies

Ian Thompson (IT)	Without Portfolio
Simon Hanson (SH)	Business Voice
Bill Fullen (BF)	Inclusive Growth
Dawn Fairlamb (DF)	People
Ray Brewis (RB)	Durham County Council
Adrian White (AW)	Infrastructure
Cllr Carl Marshall	Voice of Public Sector

1. Welcome

BT thanked everyone for attending and listed apologies. BT mentioned that as now it was in the public domain, he can mention that two of the Board members Ian Thompson and Brian Archer are leaving Durham County Council so there will be changes in membership. He thanked them for what they had both done for the Partnership and wished them the best for the future

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the meeting in July were circulated in advance of the meeting and were agreed as a true and accurate record

Matters Arising:

In relation to the vision BT informed the Board that he sat on the Editorial Group for the Vision until its winding-up and had submitted the CDEP response which had been incorporated into the document

3. Durham Insight/State of the County evidence base

MF gave a brief introduction into Durham Insight. He felt it was more valuable to have discussion and show how it works rather than giving a detailed presentation

JM was introduced. He discussed the State of the County Factsheet which is embedded into Durham Insight.

New data sets will be available over the next couple of weeks and will appear on Durham Insight. Tourism is an area that needs building on, as only the basic factsheet is available at the moment.

The State of the County will be available in Jan/Feb. It has its own page and will be updated whenever a new dataset is released.

Questions/Comments

There was a question over the calculation of GVA for Public Sector, but more information is needed to clarify how this is calculated.

It was felt that the segment data was very useful, especially in relation to the base information relating to place

There is no measure for innovation; this needs to be there with summary of Industrial Strategy [when released]

JG asked if he could meet with MF to report on data from the Climate Change Group

BT thanked MF and JM for a constructive discussion

Action: JG to meet with MF

4. Draft Proposals for Local Economic Strategy

BT informed members that the suggested meeting with Helen Golightly will now be postponed until after the New Year due to the General Election

BT discussed the draft proposals and mentioned that they need to align with the Vision 2035.

Following on from CDEP Board meeting on 12th July 2019 a sub group had been set up to identify future high level aims and objectives for the CDEP. It was agreed the content of the meeting would be brought to the CDEP Board meeting today

The five objectives:

- Business Support
- Business Base
- Skills
- Business Environment
- Promotion

It was agreed that these are aligned to the CDP Vision 2035

Objective 2 – was agreed to add R & D Tax Credit as an indicator. It was mentioned that Business Durham have bank search data. BA would be happy for this information to be shared

Objective 3 – It was asked if schools data should be included. It was noted that Michelle Rainbow did a student survey, so it is worth contacting Michelle as the expert in this area

The Board **approved** the aims, objectives and indicators. This will be forwarded to the BES Group to look at this after the meeting has taken place with the NELEP.

5. Funding Strategy Resources

SP presented to the Board on where we are in relation to Funding:

Shared Prosperity – Met the Chair of BEIS to discuss the political direction but this may all change as a result of elections.

Enterprise Allowance – this is a National Programme that supports people who are unemployed. Gateshead Council are leading on this but the programme finishes next year. SP has asked what the new programme will look like and went to Leeds to give input to influence how it will work

Durham Works Conference – A national conference was arranged to show what Durham Works has done as a delivery mechanism for DCC and partners, Andrew Hodgson from LEP, someone from DWP, Nick Campbell, Linda Bailey, were going to speak about what they had done. This should have been today but due to the election call, we are now in Purdah, so this has been postponed until February. This is a huge opportunity.

ESIF Committee – SP is still attending and Chairs the Advisory Group

Joining up work – ESIF Committee financing meetings are coming up. The ESIF Committee will discuss what is being delivered in Durham County Council

Using Match Funding– The Government announced a £3.6 billion Towns Fund targeted at places with strong economic heritage but that have not always benefited from recent economic growth – Sue will meet with Graham Wood in relation to Town Centres

ESIF – The National Lottery delivered Building Better Opportunities Programme. The 2nd half skills funding agency is Skills Support for the Workforce.

The last round of ERDF had 37 responses. These will go through Committee on the 28th November.

There is a call out for ESF 1.1 and 1.4 which targets the people furthest away from the labour market

We are now hitting ESIF targets comfortably apart from Low Carbon

ESF and ERDF will move into reserve fund for lot more developed areas and transitional areas. This is bad for all who have money left but good for those who have spent up from Jan next year.

JL mentioned that LEADER has two LAGS need to make it more viable so we now in talks around the food agenda.

6. Climate Change Consultation

Maggie Bosanquet and Helen Grayshan attended to give a presentation on the Climate Change Consultation

HG introduced herself and gave background information that the Council had declared a Climate Change Emergency. A consultation was held and is now closed, had over 1000 responses

Two emergency targets were set as part of the declaration:

- Reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 60% by 2030
- Investigate what further actions are necessary to make County Durham completely carbon neutral by 2050 and pledge to achieve this

HG mentioned that if any Board members had any ideas for this they would be welcomed.

Questions/Comments

SP wanted to congratulate the County Council with regards to the BEEP Project and wanted the Board to note that this project has been replicated by other County Councils and will draw in EU money. It leverages out commitment and long may it continue.

How does what we doing play into the Northern Powerhouse? MB mentioned that there is a big regional VCS initiative going on which is led by Peter Stark. Also Glasgow next year will make an announcement and hopefully these announcements will bring money.

It was asked how other Councils were taking on the Climate Change challenge. HG informed the Board that Durham is ahead of other Councils. We just are not so good at the PR to promote this.

Although the Council held two sessions with the University and the LEP, very few people made suggestions on heating. 77% of heating comes from burning of fossil fuels. Durham County Council are leading on new drilling into the old mines at the Louisa Centre Stanley. Similar work is going on in East Durham. Shannon Adams won an award for this which was supported by Helen Goodman.

Planning permission does it currently have to include ground source heat but we are having this written into future planning applications.

BT thanked HG and MB for presenting today.

7. Updates from Working Groups

There were no updates from Partners.

8. Any Other Business

BA proposed that Sarah Slaven attend Board meetings going forward. As she is already an Alternate, this was agreed.

9. Date and Time of next meeting – Friday 28th February 2020 at 1pm