

**Meeting:** County Durham Economic Partnership Board

**Date & Time:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 11.30am

**Venue:** Committee Room 2, County Hall



Better for everyone

<b>Present:</b>	Name	Organisation/Pillar Rep
	Glyn Llewellyn (GL)	Chair
	Sue Parkinson (SP)	Resources
	Sarah Slaven (SS)	Business Competitiveness
	Andy Broadbent (AB)	People
	Alison Gittins (AG)	Durham Business Group
	Amy Harhoff (AH)	Durham County Council
	Geoff Paul (GP)	Durham County Council
	Bill Fullen (BF)	Inclusive Growth
	Jenny Taylor (JT)	Durham University
	Cllr Elizabeth Scott (ES)	Durham County Council
	Glenn Martin (GM)	Infrastructure
	Andy Bailey (ACB)	Partnership Team, DCC
	Angela Brown (ABro)	Partnership Team, DCC (minutes)
<b>Also in attendance:</b>		
<b>Apologies:</b>		
	Joanna Laverick	VCS Voice
	Jon Gluyas	Durham University
	Joanne Waller	Durham County Council
	Ray Brewis	Durham County Council
	Reshma Begum	Federation of Small Business

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
1.	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	. GL welcomed everyone to the meeting.		
2.	<b>Minutes of the meeting</b>	The minutes from the last meeting held on <b>5<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b> were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting		
3.	<b>CDEP Board objectives and focus – Glyn Llewellyn</b>	<p>GL mentioned that he had attended on online catch up meeting a few weeks with SP and SS, where it was decided that we needed to Review where the Economic partnership is then to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• try and set our objectives and timespans and ways of measuring what we have achieve</li> <li>• How does team work together? All have strengths and need to use them together</li> <li>• What do we need to achieve overall?</li> <li>• Feel we need more engagement with private sector</li> </ul> <p>GL mentioned he is giving an presentation to the Durham group which has 25 executives in group to give an overview of what the partnership is all about.</p> <p>SS will work with GL on this we want to set business strategies with regards what needs to be done</p> <p><b>Action: SS agreed to work with GL in relation to the above</b></p>		

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4.	<b>Economic Strategy – Amy Harhoff/Geoff Paul</b>	<p>AH initiated roundtable introductions and introduced Cllr Scott to Board as this was her first meeting for CDEP Board</p> <p>AH gave an overview and recapped over the last presentation on the Economic Statement for the County which will show where County Durham where Co Durham will focus its energies in terms of capacity, capabilities, infrastructure and supporting the economy. From this will follow a big piece of work around developing an Economic Strategy for the County. We are expecting the Statement and the key priorities for the strategy to come forward by the end of the year.</p> <p>AH handed over to GP</p> <p>Will take a proposition in terms of developing an economic strategy and agreeing a statement to the Council's Cabinet in November</p> <p>Need to start engagement and consultation process which is due to take place over four months which will be the backbone of developing the statement to share with partners, stakeholders, business leaders, private sector, skills providers, and whole range of people the baseline position that we have and potential opportunities we have in the future to develop sustainable economic growth in the county.</p> <p>Following Consultation period there will be period of analysis and the production of the first version of the strategy which will then be put out to further consultation and then further redraft of the strategy. Looking at around June next year to have a collective document supported by lots of people who are engaged in the County and will then bring to Board for final sign off around August next year together with Cabinet the following month with hope of launch October next year.</p> <p>GP suggested we create a very small steering group to oversee the delivery of this project to understand what is happening on key phases. Perhaps Cllr Scott, Chair of CDEP and AH.</p> <p>At the last CDEP meeting in May John McCredie presented on Economic position, this is now number of months old and we probably haven't shared it with partners as best we could. More work is needed on this moving forward.GP discussed slides and felt that we don't reference the importance of the skills agenda plays within this</p> <p>GP asked Board two questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At this early stage, what views do CDEP members have in relation to sectorial</li> </ol>		

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		<p>issues/challenges facing County Durham which should be incorporated at an early stage in the development of an economic strategy for the County?</p> <p>Questions/Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was felt It was good to see the Green Economy feature in the advance manufacturing strand. It is worth thinking about how it features through all the areas such as tourism, health and rural.</li> <li>• If we look at enhanced actions, we can support around leaders and start up how can we ensure they stay here and how can we create an environment where businesses can succeed in Co Durham?</li> <li>• The role good quality housing can help drive forward economic development, so we need to be thinking how key role housing has in developing the economic strategy</li> <li>• GP mentioned that over the last week or so there had been discussions around that issue and strategically we need to link the housing strategy to this strategy as having quality of place is a major attraction and we need to take this point on board.</li> <li>• It was felt that one of the biggest challenges is how can we bring confidence to the private sector to give ambition?</li> <li>• The importance of skills is a top issue that businesses talk to Business Durham about. If we are going to do this well, we need to understand what the sectors mean, we need to be getting into the detail to make this distinctive to the Durham Strategy.</li> <li>• We need to make sure there is a golden thread through the County Durham Vision as we have a role to deliver through that</li> </ul>		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From a skill perspective we need to recognise that by 2030 90% of workforce needs to upskill or reskill. There is a huge job to be done in getting firms to invest in reskilling. Need sectors to come together and we have a role in helping them build a pathway to reskill.</li> <li>• Skills shortages are right across the board. The private sector needs to understand there is someone around to help and support. So, we all have a lot to do, and we need the help of small businesses across the county to help take this forward.</li> <li>• AH mentioned that every authority in the Country will be having this discussion. One of the things is what distinguishes County Durham? And how do we position this document, so we know what this county is about and what its is trying to achieve.</li> <li>• GP concluded that if the document is successful it can be used to go to government showing our position.</li> </ul> <p>2. The development of the strategy will be underpinned by a comprehensive engagement and consultation process. How can we best engage with the diverse interests and sectors during this process?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to remember that consultation is about listening to what people think and not telling them what we are doing</li> <li>• It was felt that communication is massive for the private sector person and they would like to know what is going on</li> <li>• We would all like to do this differently its such an important piece of work for us. It is important that we need to be clear what it is we are asking people. What do we want from people so that they can contribute in a way that is meaningful? There be lots of techniques we need to use and think we need</li> </ul>		

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		<p>to use every partner in the room to help to reach groups. We should be looking at what is out there in terms of best practice which others have used to do meaningful engagement,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was asked who will be required to deliver strategy as didn't see any other governance other than the County Council</li> <li>• We need to remember that if we are speaking to businesses, we need to capture all micro businesses and not forgetting farmers. For the skills side we need to remember to speak to potential workforce, its not going to be an easy job and all partners need to help to ensure all businesses are covered.</li> <li>• These conversations need to had before the strategy is written as that is how we get ownership</li> <li>• GP felt some of the discussions had been extremely helpful and as AH mentioned this piece of work around consultation at this point is equally as important as the strategic words and based on the timeline should we acknowledge that there should be another step to secure buy in and support for the consultation and engagement strategy? Its going to be cross cutting and will be different talking to young people about their aspirations so there are different conversations to be had for different areas we are consulting in.</li> <li>• GL concluded that it is important that the young people coming through know what their future entails</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: It was agreed to create a very small steering group to oversee the delivery of this project to understand what is happening on key phases. Perhaps Cllr Scott, Chair of CDEP and AH.</b></p>		
5.	<b>Shared Prosperity Fund Lobbying – Sue Parkinson</b>	SP reminded the Board that a paper was circulated with the papers for today's meeting in relation to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund focusing on The UK Community Renewal Fund. The authorship of this paper is Business Durham/New		

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		<p>College Durham/Durham University/VCS and DCC.</p> <p>SP mentioned she had spoken at the last meeting about CRF taking over from EU funding. The County Council worked very hard and package of £3m was pulled together and submitted on time to the relevant Government Department who told us that by July they would shortlist applications to a manageable list to the size of their budget which is £200m. This was to be done by July and spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March there was a big appetite for this pulled together package and today is 20<sup>th</sup> September and still have had no response.</p> <p>Given that is the case and come April will be looking at Shared Prosperity Fund which will ne the single largest discretionary fund to support this work. This is part of the wider levelling up of agenda, so we need to do some serious and planned lobbying and that is what the paper that was circulated suggests This work is now being led by minster Gove and Levelling up is now top of the agenda. Now starting to hear that it wont just be town centres and infrastructure it will have to include skills, business, and innovation.</p> <p>SP suggested this partnership takes responsibility for some planned and serious lobbying and this paper proposes how to do this. We need to think seriously who we are lobbying, trying to identify the appropriate ministers, and how best can be done and by who.</p> <p>The ask for Board member is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a look at messages and make sure you are happy with them</li> <li>• Can we then agree on messages we can use bilaterally and collectively?</li> <li>• Will we take responsibility individually and collectively for lobbying?</li> <li>• Will you do job yourself (all contribute)</li> </ul> <p><b>The Board agreed to action the above</b></p>		
6.	<b>Any Other Business</b>	<p>There was no other business GL thanked everyone for attending today and for contributing to discussions</p>		

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	Date and time of Next Meeting	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 1pm (Cancelled)		