

Meeting: County Durham Economic Partnership Board

Date & Time: Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at 1pm

Venue: Salvus House, Aykley Heads, Durham



Better for everyone

Present:	Name	Organisation/Pillar Rep
	Glyn Llewellyn (GL)	Chair
	Alison Gittins (AG)	Durham Business Group
	Cllr Elizabeth Scott (Cllr ES)	Durham County Council
	Kate Burrows (KB)	VCS Voice
	Michelle Cooper (MC)	VCS Voice
	Reshma Begum (RB)	Federation of Small Business
	Sue Parkinson (SP)	Resources
	Tim Hammond (TH)	Innovation
	Angela Brown (ABro) (Minutes)	Durham County Council
	Darren Knowd (DK)	Head of procurement, Sales and Business
Also in attendance via zoom:		
	Danielle Jackson (DJ)	Metro Dynamics (Consultant)
	Andy Kerr (AK)	Durham County Council
	Claire Williams (CW)	Durham County Council
	Andy Broadbent (AB)	People
	Bill Fullen (BF)	Inclusive Growth
Apologies:		
	Amy Harhoff	Durham County Council
	Sarah Slaven	Business Competitiveness
	Andy Bailey	Partnership Team, DCC

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
1.	Welcome and apologies	<p>GL welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked DBG for hosting the event today</p> <p>ABro listed the apologies</p>		
2.	Minutes of the meeting: 27th September 2022	<p>The minutes from the meetings in September were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting</p>		
3.	Rural England Prosperity Fund Addendum – Claire Williams	<p>CW gave an update on the Rural England Prosperity Fund. She shared slides with the Board, and asked for comments in particular on areas of focus, which she presented as:</p> <p>Investment Priority: Supporting Rural Business £2.2m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1.Small scale investment in micro and small enterprises • 1.3 Developing and the promoting the visitor economy <p>Investment Priority: Supporting Rural Communities £1.3m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.2 Investment in Capacity Building and Infrastructure Support for Local Civil Society and Community Groups <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>In response to Board comments, CW clarified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although element 2.2 had not been selected, the activities which this encompasses are able to be accommodated under element 2.2, which is broader in scope. 		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is possible to utilise funding to facilitate landowners or farmers to convert properties but it would be prudent to bear in mind the size of the overall budgetary envelope available under this programme. - Whilst this funding is purely capital, it will be critical that this is aligned with revenue activity, so that each facilitates the other and provided an example of where this may be possible in relation to business start up space, and reminded the Board that there is an allocation in UKSPF for R and D for high tech businesses, which could provide more scope for activity than would be possible within this restricted budgetary envelope. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CDEP Board endorsed the areas of focus and the submission to Government on that basis 	All	
4.	Inclusive Economic Strategy (Final Draft) – Danielle Jackson & Andy Kerr	<p>AK gave an update on the Inclusive Economic Strategy, which had been brought to the Board earlier in the year for comment. The purpose of presenting this at this meeting was to seek CDEP approval from the Board before it is considered by Cabinet in December for approval. He made the point that DCC Overview and Scrutiny Committee, recognising that the Partnership has accountability for driving forward its delivery in partnership, was keen that the Board felt that the Strategy fully allowed them to do so.</p> <p>DJ mentioned that the Strategy has evolved substantially since it was presented at the last CDEP Board, and the views expressed by the Board had now been incorporated. The language now is clear that this is a Partnership document and that the CDEP Board is working together in Partnership to transform the Economy of County Durham. DJ thanked everyone who contributed to the changes over past few months.</p> <p>In terms of next steps, contingent on CDEP Board approval, then individual Board members may wish to adopt this strategy through their internal governance structures. Cabinet will consider the strategy in December, followed by a press</p>		

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		<p>launch. Thereafter, AK proposed that there would be a subsequent Board meeting to begin planning for delivery, with sub-groups created to take forward the different thematic delivery plans strands. This would then facilitate the creation of the delivery plan with supports the Strategy, and which, once agreed by CDEP Board, will be considered by Cabinet towards the end of 2023.</p> <p>GL thanked AK</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>There was a widely held recognition that this reflected the Board’s previous input and welcomed the language of partnership, recognising that this conferred not only ownership but also responsibility. Overall, the document was felt to be well balanced, accessible and relevant.</p> <p>There was some concern about the perception that may arise when individual town centres were named, rather than reference being made to the more generic “major centres”.</p> <p>It was suggested that some nationally significant developments such as the Northern Accelerator and NE IOT appeared to have been lost in this version, and AK confirmed that this was unintentional and would be rectified. Attention was also drawn to the availability of more recent data on health related work absence.</p> <p>The inclusion of housing as a key driver of the economy was welcomed.</p> <p>The proposed arrangements for the development of the delivery plan were welcomed. The Chair made the point that delivery is the absolute key so that people and businesses in County Durham can see a positive difference being made.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DJ and AK to take forward the issues raised above, and on that basis the CDEP Board endorsed the Strategy 	DJ & AK	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Board meeting to consider arrangements for Delivery Plan development • The Chair thanked colleagues for their input and for the significant amount of genuinely inclusive work which had gone into the production of the Strategy. 	<p style="text-align: center;">GL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All</p>	
5.	Board membership – Sue Parkinson	<p>The Vice Chair reminded the Board that, at its last meeting, it had agreed to receive a paper which refreshed the Board Terms of Reference and membership, to more closely align both to the IES, and the paper was circulated with the Agenda.</p> <p>Updated Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The re-alignment of individual members against the structure of the Inclusive Economic Strategy • The replacement of specific named members where postholders have changed or roles restructured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Substitution of Andy Kerr for Ray Brewis, Durham County Council ○ Substitution of Kate Burrows for Joanna Laverick, Durham Community Action • The suggested inclusion of new members, to be invited subject to Board approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Centre for Process Industries (Productivity) ○ Engineering and Manufacturing Network (Voice of Business) ○ Visit County Durham, Private Sector Board Member (Promotion and Voice of Business) ○ Head of Culture, Sport, and Tourism (Place and Promotion) ○ Northeast Chamber of Commerce (Voice of Business) • Clarification of the position that attendance at Board is limited to named members and of the ability to set up ad hoc working groups, for instance to support the development of the IES delivery plan 		

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		<p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once TOR are agreed it will be necessary to inform County Durham Partnership that they had changed slightly - AK suggested the inclusion of the Chair of the Youth Council would add the dimension of a young person's voice. - It was suggested that the involvement of the Northeast Automotive Alliance in the wider partnership would be useful, as would the involvement of larger employers such as Northumbrian Water. The Chair was particularly keen to see the involvement of smaller SMEs. Overall the point was made that the involvement of business voice through representative organisations at the Board allowed for a breadth of views to be considered, but that not all involvement with the Partnership needed to be, or indeed should be, only via Board membership. By way of example, Durham Business Club has 220 members 50 of which are corporate members, which presented a platform for hearing wider views. - The recommendations of the paper were agreed, with the inclusion of the Chair of the Youth Council to those suggested in the paper and including invitations to Trade Union Congress and County Durham Association of Head Teachers. The Board would then wish to consider a wider piece of work, working through and with partners to look at the business voice. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board agreed the paper, and that the Vice Chair would support the Chair to operationalise this. 	GL/SP	
6.	County Durham Pound – Darren Knowd	DK introduced a presentation on the County Durham Pound, which was based on Durham partners operating as a collective, ensuring that their buying and employing power and social value contributions work to benefit the people and communities of County Durham.		

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		<p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>The work was very warmly welcomed, and the lead which County Durham was taking was applauded and supported.</p> <p>DK acknowledged that there were difficulties with partners who procured nationally, but pointed out that there were still opportunities to explore and exploit, that notwithstanding.</p> <p>It was recognised that there was significant potential to exploit in the delivery of the objectives of the ECCP and the wider “green agenda”.</p> <p>The economic demography of the County was such that much of the business stock comprised small and micro SMEs, and there was therefore potential for partners to use their purchasing power to benefit those same businesses through lower value procurements.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that work would be needed so that businesses could visualise and experience the opportunities that this could bring, and Cllr Scott agreed The Durham Pound should form a workstream of the delivery plan of the IES, which would allow for people within the partnership to help to shape that.</p> <p>DK thanked all partners for their commitment to this</p> <p>Action: The County Durham Pound be one of the workstreams in the development of the Delivery Plan for the IES.</p>	<p>As per Action 2 Agenda Item 4</p>	

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7.	Partner Updates	<p>SP referenced an update on UKSPF that needed to be shared with CDEP Plus Board. The Technical Funding Group, which acted under delegation from the CDEP+ Board, had met to progress activities for Year 1 UKSPF spend. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning a short piece work to design enterprise support delivery • Commissioning a short piece of work looking at rural businesses and how we apply SPF to ensure that it is inclusive of rural areas • Potentially developing a piece of preparatory work for any capital activity planned for years 2 and 3 <p>The Board noted the position.</p>		
8.	Any Other Business	<p>Abroad highlighted some extraneous references in the ToR to his position, which appeared to relate to those of his predecessor.</p> <p>Action: ABro to remove</p> <p>GL thanked everyone for attending today and felt this is good starting point for plan going forward</p>	ABro	
	Date and time of Next Meeting	8th February 2023 at 3pm Location TBC		