

Meeting: County Durham Economic Partnership Board

Date & Time: 13th December 2023 10.00am

Venue: Hybrid meeting - The Boardroom, New College Durham/Online via Teams



Present:	Name	Organisation/Pillar Rep
New College		
	Glyn Llewellyn (GL)	Chair
	Alan Smith (AS)	Believe Housing (Lead for Inclusive Growth)
	Alison Gittins (AG)	Durham Business Group
	Andy Bailey (ACB)	Durham County Council
	Andy Broadbent (AB)	New College Durham (Lead for People)
	Andy Kerr (AK)	DCC Head of Economic Development
	Colleen Peters (CP)	New College Durham
	Duncan Peake (DP)	Raby Estates
	Michelle Cooper (MC)	County Durham Community Foundation (VCS Voice)
	Paul Marsden (PM)	Head of the Association of Secondary Schools
	Reshma Begum (RB)	Federation of Small Businesses
	Richard Baker (RBaker)	Durham University (Lead for Innovation)
	Sarah Slaven (SS)	Business Durham (Lead for Business Competitiveness)
Also, in attendance	Sarra Scougall (SarraS)	Durham Works, DCC
	Ramsay Taylor (RT)	Durham Works, DCC
	Kirsty Wilkinson (KW)	Public Health, DCC
Online Via Teams		
	Ailsa Anderson (AA)	Engineering & Manufacturing Network
	Angela Brown (ABrown) (minutes)	Durham County Council
	Alessandra Coda (AC)	Metro Dynamics
	Claire Williams (CW)	Funding & Programmes DCC
	Helen Radcliffe (HR)	Durham Works, DCC
	Kevin Fenning (KF)	Metro Dynamics

	Sue Parkinson (SP)	CDEP Vice Chair
Apologies:		
	Amy Harhoff	Durham County Council
	Andy Bailey	Durham County Council
	Cllr Elizabeth Scott	Durham County Council
	Kate Burrows	Durham Community Action (VCS Voice)

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
1.	Welcome and apologies	GL welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received and recorded		
2.	Minutes of CDEP Board meeting on 26th October 2023	Minutes of 26 th October 2023 were agreed as a true record		
3.	Matters Arising	There were no matters arising.		
4.	Chair's Opening Remarks	GL informed the Board that it is important for people to attend the meetings on a regular basis and reminded the Board that the next meeting is 28 th February. He reminded Board members that we now had an opportunity to launch the IE Strategy and further increase business involvement, given that the IES is now live		
5.	UKSPF Update – Sarah Slaven	<p>SS mentioned at the last Board meeting it was agreed we would start inviting people to update on work that has been delivered so that all Board members are aware of what is being delivered in the County.</p> <p>SS presented on the Durham Business Growth Programme</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>AB mentioned that there was a lot of excellent work being done there and asked how linkages between business and people/skills work</p> <p>SS replied that as part of business reviews skills needs were identified</p> <p>DP asked in relation to evaluation it seems that the support is direct financial support or non-financial support but where is the long-lasting legacy best delivered? SS replied that, in practical terms, the benefit which accrues from non-financial support of</p>		

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	<p>Richard Baker</p>	<p>itself creates a legacy in the individual business. There was also an opportunity to better understand the balance/measure of impacts GL asked DP what the affects would be from his perspective DP felt that financial support encourages businesses to invest earlier than planned, but also think non-financial support is equally welcomed. He would welcome the findings of the evaluation in terms of legacy</p> <p>RB asked in relation to the engagement with businesses whether these are predominantly businesses supported in previous programmes or new to support. He felt that ideally it would be advisable to try to outreach to businesses that we have not heard from before.</p> <p>SS confirmed that she would obtain that information and share it with board members</p> <p>MC asked where business support to the VCS fits. SS advised that, when supporting VCS, they are mindful that there are also resources from communities and place partners for this</p> <p>AA asked if there were any obstacles that would prevent companies from accessing support. SS said they have tried to make it streamlined for companies to express interest then there would be interaction with all businesses of all sizes and all sectors are potentially eligible</p> <p>GL asked AG if the Durham Business Group members were aware of this. AG replied that the Growth Fund will be showcased at next event at Ramside where they would be expecting around 130 attendees</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS to report on mix of enquiries <p>RBaker presented on Innovating Together in the Northeast (In-Tune) – This is a regional programme and gave credit to County Council and Combined Authority for enabling this activity.</p>	<p>SS</p>	

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		<p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>DP mentioned that access to the Arrow Programme for SME's is quite daunting and asked for an explanation of the process. RBaker confirmed that, each University has an out facing business development manager to seek out potential users of the Arrow Programme, who will then introduce potential projects to an innovative associate located with the academic departments. The academic with then in turn either solve the issue, work on the project themselves or seek alternative support from their department</p> <p>MC – advised that she used to do carry out that role at Manchester University and felt there could still be an issue of translation to the business community.</p> <p>GL asked PM how this information would be of use within the school sector – PM found it an interesting topic, and would be interested in exploring the real links are, informing the young people of opportunities, skills, and knowledge they need to access and being connected for children of County Durham</p> <p>RBaker agreed that there was a need look to consider how these fits within the overall skills strategy.</p> <p>HR advised the Board that –UKSPF funding is being applied to developing a careers framework for Durham which should be finalised by Summer. This would lead to communications activity so that people know where to access Careers advice, which links with the Inclusive Economic Strategy and aligns with NECA priorities, particularly in respect of the strand on supporting young people and adults with improved career information.</p> <p>RBaker would be keen to speak to HR in relation to this</p>	<p>HR</p>	

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	<p>Helen Radcliffe (Presentations from Sarra Scougall & Ramsay Taylor)</p> <p>SarraS – Multiply & Communicate</p> <p>Ramsay Taylor – Durham Enable Supported Employment Service</p>	<p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR to speak to RBaker <p>HR advised that her Service has responsibility for the delivery of people and skills management of UKSPF, with some £5m of funding to support residents who are economically inactive who are a long way from the labour market and £4m skills funding, which is to support workforce development, people who are unemployed and closer to the Labour market. There is also access to Funding of £2.8m under the Multiply programme to support adults to improve their maths skills, as well as a smaller amount of funds through the Communicate programme, which is concentrates on English skills. All will end in March 2025</p> <p>Sarra, the Multiply and Communicate Manager gave an update on the detail of these two programmes.</p> <p>Ramsay Taylor, the Durham Enable Manager, gave an update on Durham Enable Supported Employment Service, which was originally funded under ESF.</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>MC was supportive and asked whether schools in deprived areas were targeted. SarraS confirmed that this was the case, with initial concentration being on schools that have highest premium rate. There has been a lot of schools come forward to express interest.</p> <p>CP also expressed support, and mentioned the flexibility for funding streams RB asked about the pathway for anyone wishing to consider enterprise and SarraS responded that all support was relevant to individual needs</p>		

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		<p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All presentations to be circulated to Board members • It was agreed to circulate RT video to Board members due to lack of time 	<p>AB AB</p>	
6.	<p>County Durham Investment Framework – Andy Kerr/Eleanor Springer</p>	<p>AK, KF and AC gave a presentation to the Board on the County Durham Investment Framework, <i>Questions/comments</i></p> <p>DP felt that this was a very welcome development and pointed out that the role of the private sector should not be underestimated.</p> <p>RB likewise felt that of the role of Durham County Council in in championing projects should not be underestimated.</p> <p>AK informed the Board that this is a live document which was still in development and GL concluded that these areas can be developed concurrently with implementation</p>		
7.	<p>County Durham Together Partnership and links to the Economic Partnership – Kirsty Wilkinson</p>	<p>KW gave a presentation to the Board from the County Durham Together Partnership and the links to Economic Partnership</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>MC felt the role of the Community should not be undervalued, and that the presentation had been particularly useful in that regard</p> <p>GL suggested to the Board that it would be extremely useful to get any feedback on the presentation</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members to feed back to KW on this 	<p>ALL</p>	

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8.	Inclusive Economic Strategy – Delivery and Implementation – Claire Williams	<p>CW gave an update to the Board on the Inclusive Economic Strategy – Delivery and Implementation. She mentioned that since the last meeting this has now been approved by Council and agreement had been reached to set up a new Delivery Group under the Board which will meet 4-6 times per year and will report to the CDEP Partnership Board twice per year. The intention is to have the first meeting during January/February, which Sue will chair. Terms of Reference are to be developed.</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>SP commented that any plan had to be flexible to work in changing environments, and thus the Board, via the Delivery Group, having arrangements to review progress against emerging challenges and opportunities would be welcome. She felt that this was a promising idea and was happy to support</p> <p>GL agreed that the Board needed to be involved in the process</p> <p>DP asked if this will be a standing agenda item for this Board, which CW confirmed</p> <p>RB asked if consideration had been given to membership and SP suggested that membership should be flexible so that the appropriate people were involved in relation to appropriate topics, in addition to core membership drawn from Board members or their nominees.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CW and SP to contact appropriate people to gauge interest in membership. Any Board member wishing to be involved was asked to contact CW or SP 	<p>CW & SP</p>	
9.	Any Other Business	<p>If anyone could offer venue for the next meeting on 28th Feb 2024 that would be much appreciated</p>		
	Date and time of Next Meeting	28th February 2024 @ 1pm Venue TBC		