



County Durham
Economic Partnership

MINUTES

Meeting	County Durham Economic Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	Monday 3rd November 2014
Time	13.00 – 15.00
Venue	Conference Room 4B, County Hall

Attendees:

Brian Tanner	Chair
Simon Goon	Business Durham
Ian Thompson	Director of Regeneration and Economic Development, Strategy, Programmes & Performance, DCC
Andy Palmer	Chair of Durham City Board
Neil Graham	Job Centre Plus
Paul Robson	Atom Bank
Edward Twiddy	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Regeneration, DCC
Cllr Neil Foster	Durham University
Jon Gluyas	VCS
Jo Laverick	Research & Equalities Manager, DCC
Stephen Tracey	Chair of Rural Working Group
Cllr Eddie Tomlinson	Chair of the Housing Forum
Sarah Robson	Chair of Economy & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee, DCC
Cllr Rob Crute	Overview and Scrutiny Officer, DCC
Diane Close	Head of Transport & Contract Services, DCC
Adrian White	Strategy & Partnerships, DCC
Tarryn Lloyd Payne	Strategy & Partnerships, DCC
Angela Brown	Strategy & Partnerships, DCC

1. Welcome

Brian Tanner welcomed everyone to the meeting and initiated round table introductions. He introduced Cllr Rob Crute and Diane Close (DCC, Overview and Scrutiny), and thanked them for attending the meeting. He also introduced Jon Gluyas who is now the Board representative from Durham University to the other Board members, as this was first Board meeting.

2. Apologies

Brian Manning	Esh Group
Simon Hanson	FSB
Sue Soroczan	Job Centre Plus
Melanie Sensicle	Visit County Durham
Sue Parkinson	Vice Chair & Chair of the Business, Enterprise & Skills Group
Barbara Gubbins	County Durham Community Foundation
Jonathan Walker	NECC
Helen Golightly	NELEP
Roger Kelly	Chair of Cultural Partnership

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The actions were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

- All presentations were circulated
- Michelle Duggan has had further meeting with Linda Bailey
- Measures of Success are on today's agenda

Action: TLP will speak to Barbara Gubbins to see if the evaluation is available for circulation.

5. Developing Transport Infrastructure within County Durham; Adrian White

AW gave a presentation to the Board on developing Transport within County Durham. The Combined Authority from April 2014 covers 7 authorities in the North East. The order passed by Parliament which established the Combined Authority also dissolved the Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority. As a result, the role of the Integrated Transport Authority along with its property, rights and liabilities transferred to the Combined Authority. For the first time there is single body with responsibility for strategic transport across all seven local authority areas.

A key first step has been the development of a strategic plan with the Combined Authority over the next 12 months. Adrian went on to describe the key challenges & opportunities being discussed, including;

- Ongoing need for capital investment in NE
- Revenue funding reductions
- Access to employment sites/shift work etc.
- Youth employment/training
- Connecting the visitor economy
- Rail devolution
- Parking (impact on local economy)
- Harnessing technology
- Managing growth on the network

Questions

BT thanked Adrian for his presentation

- NG asked how important discussions with Leeds and Manchester (Northern Futures debate) were and how strongly are Durham fighting for investment?

- AW mentioned that Newcastle were leading and take the portfolio for transport, but need to make sure that Durham get some of the Investment, therefore working very closely with the LEP as we need to be heard.
- NF felt a key point was that the Government were in talks with the North but when they say North this sometimes only refers to Manchester. CDEP partners need to be engaging to make sure the voice of Durham is heard.
- IT mentioned the Northern Powerhouse which is about improving the physical and digital connections between cities. Some work AW is doing has links between e.g. North Tyneside Aberdeen. There is a narrative for North East Investment but we need to get message to public domain.

6. State of the County; Stephen Tracey

ST gave a presentation to the Board in relation to the State of the County. The presentation covered the five measurers of success which are:-

- The County Durham *employment rate* to converge to and be maintained at pre-recession levels (73% of the 16-64 population).
- The County's per capita *GVA* figure to rise to 87% of the regional value (or 68% of the UK figures) by 2030.
- The *number of businesses* in the County to increase by 4,300 by 2030 contributing towards the rise in the employment rate.
- *Gross household disposable income* (or 87.4% of the national figure).
- The number of Lower Super Output Areas in the County which are ranked nationally in the top 20% of the *Index of Deprivation's* employment domain to reduce from the current number of 174 to 64

These measures were agreed in 2009, since then there has been a global recession and GDP has declined for the last 5 quarters in a row. This has been the deepest recession in this country but recently we have seen growth returning. There have also been a lot of policy changes since these measures were agreed.

AP discussed a report and outlined the recommendations to the Board.

The Recommendations for the Board are:-

- Note the key messages presented and support the 'CDEP Commitment' as outlined within the State of the County Report.
- Consider and support the continued suitability of five key measurers of success – with the employment rate as the top priority and further analysis for the number of businesses measure.
- Receive annual performance report against set of five key measures of success and a suite of 'tracker' measures aligned to the ambitions of the Regeneration Statement and our partnership groups on a quarterly basis.
- Agree that Working Groups receive and monitor appropriate 'tracker' and 'indicator' measures.
- Ensure that the Durham Investment Group considers the need for appropriate performance trackers and monitoring against our investment priorities including those resourced through European Funding and Single Local Growth Fund. Helping to ensure that our projects are appropriately phased, managed and deliver the desired benefits will deliver impact in line with our measures of success.

BT asked the Board to note the key messages and commitment as outlined in the report. **Recommendations were agreed.**

7. DCC Scrutiny Impact of Government and Policy Changes on the Economy of County Durham Report

Cllr Rob Crute – Chair of Economic & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee thanked members of the partnership for their valuable time in supporting the work of the member's reference group. DCC and Partners are working together to tackle the challenges and trying to mitigate the impact of various approaches to deliver activity and support economic growth in Co Durham.

- Final report was agreed at Cabinet on 7th May to maximise the funding opportunities which are available within DCC through the Regional Growth Fund, Growing Places, Single Growth Fund and the next EU funding programme for 2014-20
- He asked the Board to note paragraph 6 which shows the six recommendations and CDEP's current position and approach to tackling these recommendations. They would welcome further input before 8th Jan 2015.

BT indicated that the Board would be happy to note the key findings and recommendations

NF welcome the work that has already been done in relation to this and mentioned that it was good to see that we all travelling in the same direction.

Action: The Board agreed the recommendations which were to note the key findings and recommendations contained within the attached report.

8. Shaping the Durham EU Investment Plan

BT informed the Board that Sue Parkinson would have commented on this item but had to give apologies for the meeting at short notice. She wants everyone to be aware that despite having a lot of projects this is not an investment plan. There has been a lot more proposals than there is money available. The next step will be to draw out the synergies and see where these can join up. We will then develop a smaller list of projects moving forward for which we will address delivery and outputs.

All work is in progress and there have already been some key challenges relating to outputs. The Working Group Leads are frustrated at the moment as the rules are still not defined; therefore the paper is not a delivery plan but a direction of travel.

JL mentioned that a Social Inclusion Conference took place on 26th September at the Glebe Centre. Social Inclusion is a big cross-cutting area. The CDEP had an overwhelming response from delegates with over 200 attendees. There was strong recognition that the Voluntary sector needs to be encouraged to engage with the right elements of the public/private sectors. This would mean a serious capacity issue will need to be addressed. Match funding is another big challenge so there is a need to work closely with colleagues in the public sector to make sure everything is aligned.

BT asked the Board to note the report

AP mentioned that the EU workstreams are now starting to firm things up. Match funding is being discussed a lot more. People are starting to think about outputs. The SFA appears to be raising serious concerns in regard to co-financing the Youth Employment Initiative. This presents a serious risk over the ability to deliver the full YEI programme in County Durham.

Sustainable Transport was on the original guidance but not in transitional regions; therefore this money needs to be redirected into other ideas. Despite hopes that national programme agreement would be in place by January 2015, it is unlikely that any funds will be available before June 2015.. SG mentioned that the MAS and Growth Accelerator opt-ins have been taken off the table. More work was being done on how can deliver productivity and manufacturing programmes.

Action: The Board agreed with the content of the report.

9. Partnership Working Group Position Report; Working Group Chairs

The report highlights the ongoing activities linked to strategic thinking of the partnership working groups. As a result of this report two key areas could be considered by the board.

- A review of Strategies by the CDEP in February
 - Regeneration Statement
 - Update on County Plan
 - Housing Strategy
 - BES Strategy
- Future reporting to be aligned to Performance measures as discussed in item 7

The Board were recommended to:

- Note the report, paying particular attention to the challenges and opportunities presented for each partnership group
- Consider the future options as detailed in 4.2 for the future remit and role of Economic Infrastructure within the partnership
- Receive regular update reports and linked to overall performance reporting at least twice a year.

Action: The Board agreed with all the recommendations

10. Matters for endorsement; Adult Skills Strategy

BT reported that the Adult Skills Strategy is a matter for endorsement and he asked Board members to endorse the strategy and consider how they can support its delivery.

Action: The Board endorsed the recommendations

11. Partners Update; ALL

Rural Working Group – Cllr Eddie Tomlinson

The Rural Working Group met on 16th October, there was a presentation from Transport on bus Services in rural areas of the County and budgets for the areas. They have mapped services to try and assess what is out there in relation to community service busses.

The group is working closely with colleagues from “warm up north” with regards to non-cavity properties

Durham City Board – Neil Graham

The Board met on 15th September when there was an excellent presentation from Simon Goon in relation to Business Growth and Investment in Co Durham to focus on city centre and what needs to be done to strengthen role of the city centre.

Issues addressed included lack opportunity for younger people, graduate retention and the future role of the University Neil McMillan from Carillion gave an update on planned investment and progress on key sites being developed, namely:-

- Freemans Reach – part of the masterplan
- Aykley Heads
- National savings expect move Jan. So at the latest the passport office will be ready 2016.
- Milburngate House – Working on this how to take this forward

County Durham Housing Forum – Sarah Robson

The forum focused on emerging issues from the Growth Deal, which the Social Housing Sector was keen to discuss. There was an update on Housing Strategy. There will be internal workshops and as well as workshops held for partners. The next meeting will be held on 11th November and the theme will be health.

12. Any Other Business

Nothing was raised

13. Date and Time of next meeting

Tuesday 3rd February 2015 at 1pm