



County Durham
Economic Partnership

MINUTES

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Meeting | County Durham Economic Partnership Board |
| Date of Meeting | Tuesday 2 nd May 2017 |
| Time | 13.30 – 15.30 |
| Venue | NETPark Incubator, Sedgefield |

Attendees:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Brian Tanner | Chair |
| Carol Daniell | Job Centre Plus |
| Ian Thompson | Director of Regeneration and Economic Dev |
| Jon Gluyas | Durham University |
| Sarah Robson | Chair of Housing Forum |
| Neil Graham | Chair of Durham City Board |
| Michelle Gorman | Visit County Durham |
| Barbara Gubbins | County Durham Community Federation |
| Simon Goon | Business Durham |
| Simon Hanson | FSB |
| Andy Palmer | Head of SPP, Durham County Council |
| Graham Wood | Durham County Council |
| Mark Dunne-Willows | Job Centre Plus |
| Sarah Nattrass | County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service |
| Dawn Fairlamb | New College Durham |
| Mark Anderson | New College Durham |
| Tarryn Lloyd Payne | Strategy & Partnerships, Durham County Council |
| Angela Brown | Strategy & Partnerships, Durham County Council |

1. Welcome

BT welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced visitors Mark Dunne Willows from Job Centre Plus, Sarah Nattrass from Fire Service, and Dawn Fairlamb and Mark Anderson from New College Durham.

BT asked group to reflect for few moments for the sad news of the death of Brian Manning who was a stalwart of the CDEP Board and partnership.

2. Apologies

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sue Parkinson | Vice Chair & Chair of the Business, Enterprise & Skills Group |
| Cll Eddie Tomlinson | Chair of the Rural Working Group |
| Cllr Neil Foster | Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Regeneration, Durham County Council |
| Alison Gittins | Durham Business Club |
| Arun Harish | CPI |

3. Minutes of the last meeting

These were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising and all actions are complete. The Focus of today's meeting is around apprenticeships and the wider implications of the programme and how it folds into county Durham businesses, raising aspirations and overall activity in the County.

5. Promoting Apprenticeships & Apprenticeship Levy in County Durham – Graham Wood

GW gave a presentation to the Board on promoting apprenticeships and the apprenticeship levy. The apprenticeship programme provides 1500 eligible small businesses and has led to 1072 apprenticeships starts.

There have been changes to apprenticeships:

Funding

- Levy/Non Levy
- Negotiated pricing
- Funding Bands
- 10% business contribution for most apprenticeships
- Some incentives

Design & Quality

- Frameworks to standards: 122 approved and 400 in development
- End point Assessment: currently only cover 22% of standards
- Off the job training requirements

Questions/Comments

MA agreed with GW's analysis. They have 500 apprentices working directly with New College. There is no consistent government programme delivery approach. It was noted that with 35 levy payments signed up to the college that despite the ongoing changes there it is still a positive reaction at present.

SN mentioned that the Fire Brigade have taken on 10 Firefighter apprentices that day and they will get to ride the fire appliance in their second year. The college have been great in helping to develop this. They are hoping to provide jobs from the scheme, these 10 posts coming from retirement of current staff.

SH felt that FSB members have disengaged until it becomes more certain and clear. There are still a lot of unanswered questions.

MG said Tourism sector don't tend to take on apprentices; this is being looked at on a national level at the moment.

BT thanked GW for his informative presentation.

6. Developing County Durham for Business Growth – Simon Goon

SG gave a presentation to the Board on developing County Durham for Business Growth. He covered:

- Business Durham
- Property
- Enterprise
- Business Engagement
- Business Events
- Access to Finance
- Innovation
- Promoting Durham

SG mentioned that major industrial sites are being developed, Forrest Park, Merchant Park, Integra 61 & Hawthorn. He said that there are not enough industrial units to keep up with demand. We need to keep supporting businesses and help to encourage start-ups in the community.

SG informed the Board that unemployment had never been so low, apprenticeships are increasing but we need to find a way to expose primary school children to other businesses. CD mentioned that JCP are trying to target schools for apprenticeships to make them aware of the current labour market. BG mentioned a company in Hartlepool that are working on 'Horrible Histories' to make children aware of different careers. BG will pass on details to the Board.

BT thanked SG for presenting today

Action: BG to share details of Horrible Histories

7. County Durham Community Foundation Developments – Barbara Gubbins

BG updated the Board with a presentation on the County Durham Community Foundation developments.

She gave an overview of the work the Community Foundation is doing locally:

- CDCF active in encouraging philanthropy by private and corporate donors and delivering public sector funds
- Overall aim to strengthen local communities across County Durham and Darlington
- CDCF is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee – 14 trustees employing 10 full time equivalent staff – overhead costs of around 10% are funded through agreed contributions from the funds they manage
- Key stakeholder in County Durham and Darlington
- Extensive partnership working

BT thanked BG for providing this information and felt it is one of the 'jewels' and is important to make people aware of the work CDCF is doing.

CD mentioned she would be keen to work with BG to ensure closer working with the Job Centre Plus, especially with the larger geographical area.

Action: Carole Daniel to speak to Barbara Gubbins

8. Durham County Council Rationalisation of Strategies – Andy Palmer

AP wanted to make everyone aware that the Council are doing an exercise internally to rationalise Policies and Strategies. The CDEP have already rationalised many of its own strategies and aligning its groups. The Housing Strategy and the County Durham Plan won't change but some strategies in other thematic areas may.

9. Partner and Working Group Updates

BT invited the Chairs of the Working Group and members of the Board to provide updates:

NG – At the last meeting of Durham City Board, DF came along and gave an interesting presentation. Some people around the table have been involved in areas of activity for many years. The University is now investing a lot of money in the city for student accommodation and teaching and research facilities.

SR – At the last meeting of the County Durham Housing Forum a discussion took place around refining priorities and addressing poverty and the older person's agenda. There is a lot of joined-up thinking. The 800 frontline staff are coming together to see how the focus can be sharpened to get the key messages out.

BG – VCS – At the last VCS star meeting it was reported that 27 organisations have been supported through asset transfer and there are more on the way

JG – Durham University – In February three projects linked to DCC were submitted. Energy at Auckland Castle failed and will have a second try. The energy conservation is being picked up by Lawrence Kerrigan and his team are to run a workshop regarding this. The working group has centred on the NELEP's site for an innovation audit. Offshore energy is getting to the stage where a report is being prepared and this will be published in June. The group has been working on Northern Powerhouse concepts, but while this is an opportunity for Durham the future is uncertain. . Durham University ran a workshop concerning the impact of Brexit relating to energy.

Action: JG to share link

CD – Small employment offer is now in place. 3 staff are now in place working on disability and health conditions. Need to see how we can work more with them.

MDW – He is the new lead community partner for DWP and will be encouraging more community partners to help with strengthening and supporting people with disability to get into work. Currently working with employers to see what is available.

BT reiterated that this is a major challenge in the County.

SH – N FSB has now changed membership which has challenges in County. A report outlining work on Brexit and impact Brexit will have on small businesses is due to be published at the end of May.

Action: SH will share report links

MG – Results are back from perception research and looking across the data, perceptions of Durham are quite positive. Visit County Durham will be using the research to feed into the place strategy and will share this with Board. VCD is currently working with CDF in Weardale and Teesdale.

Action: MG to share results

10. Any Other Business

NG – HCA is having a name Change and will soon be Home England

BT thanked everyone for attending today

11. Date and Time of next meeting – 4th July 2017 @ 1pm at Durham University