

**Update on the Local Enterprise Partnership D2N2 from your
Voluntary Sector representative Robert Crowder**
rcrowder@rcan.org.uk

The D2N2 Board has been moving very quickly to position ourselves to be ready to spend money as it comes through. So here is an update as to where we are now:-

UK Strategic Economic Plan (SEP):-

This document formed the basis of a bid to the UK Government for a Growth Deal (UK money) which will bring with it freedoms, flexibilities and influence over resources from Government; plus a share of the new Local Growth Fund (LGF) to target our identified growth priorities. In return Government will expect evidence of real commitment from Local Enterprise Partnerships to the growth agenda.

The first announcements were made in the summer and for the D2N2 area Growth Deal 1 comprises a £570m capital programme with some £174.3m of Government (LGF) funding. The majority of these projects in our area are due to start in 2015/16 with a huge variety in size.

At the end of January the Government agreed an expansion to our Growth Deal which will see an extra £22.2m invested in Derbyshire, Derby, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham between 2016 and 2021. This is in addition to the £174m of funding committed by the Government on 7 July 2014. Over the lifetime of its Deal (2015-2021) the Local Enterprise Partnership estimates that up to 22,000 new jobs could be created, 10,000 new homes built and that it has the potential to generate £550m public and private investment.

The additional proposed projects include:

- Building an Institute for Advanced Manufacturing at Nottingham University to improve the provision of manufacturing research and graduate level skills, as part of a £100m plan.
- Support Drakelow Park with a bridge and bypass to allow development of an employment park and 300 homes.
- Bring Buxton Spa back into use as a mineral water spa hotel in Buxton, boosting the visitor economy.
- Opening up Nottinghamshire housing sites and improving Cotgrave's town centre, creating up to 2,700 jobs and 1,600 houses

D2N2 Growth Hub launch –

The D2N2 - Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire - Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) aims to create 55,000 jobs before 2023 and has secured funds to work across the region and build up a single point of contact for business advice and support services. The D2N2 Growth Hub is the gateway for businesses in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire who are seeking the relevant information, guidance, support, expertise, finance and knowledge they need to start up, scale up and grow their business. The first stage D2N2 Growth Hub was launched by Matthew Hancock, MP BiS Minister of State on 5th December, 2014

EU Funding. The Structural and Investment Funds (SIF)

- i. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – focused on economic development, including funding business support and economic infrastructure interventions;
- ii. The European Social Fund (ESF) - designed to increase employment opportunities, promote social inclusion and address youth unemployment;
- iii. The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) - supports inclusive growth in agriculture, food and forestry, and in rural areas

The D2N2 LEP notional allocation is £208.8m to be split 50:50 between ERDF and ESF. These funding streams have yet to be signed off but DCLG and DWP aim to submit the revised Operational Programmes to the Commission this month and have agreement in principle by February 2015.

The main programme of the EU SIF will spend within the following areas:-

1. Innovation
2. ICT
3. SME Competitiveness
4. Low Carbon
5. Climate Change Adaptation
6. Environmental Protection
7. Sustainable Transport
8. Employment and labour Mobility
9. Social Inclusion and
10. Education, Skills and lifelong Learning

At the January Board meeting we approved the development of a specification for a business support and innovation focused call to be issued in advance of formal approval of the ERDF Operational Programme. This could go out as early as March of this year. The broad strategic focus of the call would be the 'business facing' aspects of the SME Competitiveness, Innovation, Low Carbon, ICT and Resource Efficiency themes, covering the 'Strategic Activities in the ESIF Strategy of:

- Support for Smart Specialisation Collaborative Research between enterprises, research institutions, and public institutions
- Support for the Commercialisation and Enterprise of new products and business processes,
- Investment in the development of Innovation Space and Facilities, facilities, including equipment, with the capability to serve as a platform, catalyst and host for
- innovation and innovative relationships
- Helping Businesses Benefit from ICT:
- Helping Business Grow

- Key Sector Support targeted at the eight priority sectors and including business growth strategies, design and development of a targeted entrepreneurship programme, network and collaborative business activities.
- Low Carbon Markets and Technologies
- Energy Efficiency for SMEs
- Innovative Technologies

When and what additional funding will be available in rural areas?

A further £5.5m of European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) was confirmed for the D2N2 area in May 2014. All of this funding is over 6 years and covers all of the D2N2 area. Defra expects the European Commission to formally agree the EAFRD Operational Programme by the end of March and elements of the Programme are due to be launched from February/March. The first calls will be from June 2015 and likely for cover the following areas:-

- Rural business advisory services to include support to Priority sectors (for Advisers and associated CPD/technical support and events)
- Processing/marketing &/or development of non agri products.
- Start up business support.
- Business investment.
- Small scale infrastructure inc renewable/energy savings.
- Recreation infrastructure/tourism and small scale infrastructure projects.
- Tourism joint collaboration & developing marketing tourism.
- From January 2016 Community Broadband.

This money will compliment and be in addition to the normal D2N2 programmes running in the rural areas.

Core delivery principles for implementation

A consultation document on the **D2N2 ESIF Local Implementation Plan** has now closed and analysis of the comments carried out. The consultation document contained detailed information on ‘what’ could be included in the programme and ‘how’ it could be delivered. I have been involved with the Social Inclusion Framework under 9 above and was pleased that our comments had been take note of when the document was published and agreed at the Board.

As far as the main EUSIF call for projects goes, the first calls are now unlikely till after the general election which means June-July 2015. The first spend then is expected for spring of 2016.

Voluntary sector and Social Inclusion

Funding for the Social Inclusion work that the voluntary sector will look to deliver will be match funded for the first 3 years by the Big Lottery Fund. The final timetable is yet to be announced but the following is what is expected.

- June – July 2015 Expressions of interest open for first round bids announced.

- November 2015 Full bids open.
- March 2016 first delivery carried out.

At the January Board meeting it was agreed for the Big Lottery Fund to be targeted at the five priority thematic groups as set out in the Social Inclusion Framework; with 80% of the funding being ring-fenced for these groups. The £12m investment (including matched funding from the Big Lottery Fund) will provide:

- a long-term systems change with services planned and commissioned as a package (rather than in silos)
- provide an holistic response to users' needs and ensure services allow the user choice and control
- address the challenges of service re-design so that changes will last and give a sustainable improvement to people's lives. This means bringing together partners with ambition and investing in the space needed to develop locally-owned solutions.

We now have support for the voluntary sector through the lottery Partnership Development Fund. For the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire LEP, One East Midlands has been awarded £30,000 to take on the role of Partnership Developer. That means we will be working closely with Rachel and her organisation to ensure that we in the voluntary sector have suitable groups ready to bid for the EU funding, particularly the Social Inclusion money when the calls are finally released.

The Voluntary sector working with Nottingham University.

Last week I visited Nottingham University and discussed how they could work more closely with the voluntary sector. I asked Daniel King to write me a few paragraphs which I could share with you and he gave me the following:-

Our Community Partnerships team, a focal point for this, works in collaboration with local community and voluntary sector organisations, social enterprises and micro-businesses to increase opportunities to access the resources and physical environment the University has to offer. They currently manage a project, Building Enterprise, for organisations in the Nottingham City area – and this can fund student placements into organisations.

There is a good overview of the sorts of activities organisations can access from UoN here. In particular placements are an area of great value to both the students and host organisations. Placements may take various forms, voluntary, paid (where a funded-project may fully or partly fund the costs), through to placements where the host organisations funds the cost (including through our Graduate Temping Agency, UniTemps).

Each year over 3,000 students sign up to volunteer in the local community and the Student Volunteer Centre, run by the Students Union, matches the needs of charities and community groups from all over Nottingham with the interests and passions of these students. Opportunities range from coaching in local schools to helping organise Christmas parties for older people.

Some of the activities undertaken by our Business School may also be relevant, for example Chris Mahon, Associate Professor, is interested in Social Enterprise and Community Innovation Companies and runs an MBA on Social Enterprise. The business school delivers a range of activities supporting SME leadership and growth, and scope for work around social enterprise exists. Each year MBA and other students from the Business School need project ideas to work on as part of their MBA or other curriculum projects.

Contacting the University – BEIS acts as a gateway into the University for organisations, via the [Services for Business](#) web pages. Whilst aimed at business, it includes other organisations. So if unsure who to approach, this is a way in.

BEIS runs a regular programme of events for SMEs and local partner organisations, Ingenuity Network. The programme can be accessed [here](#) and events are [here](#).