

Agenda Item No.3

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER - STRATEGIC POLICY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET**

4 July 2016

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

**D2N2 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME –
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to enter into a Partnership Agreement with Derby City Council (the accountable body) to deliver the European-funded, D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire) Technical Assistance Programme.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Technical Assistance (TA) is revenue funding drawn down from the European Commission to support the administration of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). It is match funded by contributions from applicants and partners and used to ensure that the activities which fall within the scope of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) programmes are managed, monitored and evaluated in line with European Union (EU) regulations.

For the current ESIF programme, Government has declared that any TA applications must be submitted via local enterprise partnerships (LEPs). An application has been made on behalf of the D2N2 LEP by Derby City Council, acting as applicant, to access the TA fund and help deliver local European programmes.

A report was submitted to the Cabinet Member on 15 December 2015, which approved £72,452 as match funding from the Council. The match funding will support the cost of a bespoke project advice service across the D2 (Derby and Derbyshire) area through the appointment of two Technical Assistance Officers for the three year period of the project. The four top tier authorities and East Midlands Further Education Council (EMFEC) will be contributing to the match pot and Derby City will be contributing an equivalent match of £72,452 over 3 years.

Following the submission of two full applications for a D2N2 TA project, approvals were granted by the D2N2 Programme Board for: the ESF on 24

February, 2016; and ERDF on 1 April, 2016. Derby City Council has now concluded contract negotiations with Government and, as the main applicant, Derby City Council approved the acceptance of the grant at its Cabinet meeting on 8 June, 2016.

Due to ESIF regulations, the D2N2 TA service will be run as a single project supported by two separate funding allocations. The total value of the project is £1.69m and will run until the end of December, 2019.

Partnership Agreement

The partners involved in the D2N2 TA project are D2N2 LEP, the four top tier local authorities (Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council) and EMFEC. In order to finalise the contract, Derby City Council, as lead applicant and accountable body, requires a Partnership Agreement to be signed by all partners and in place by 30 June 2016. The Partnership Agreement sets out the necessary protocols for delivery of the project, including financial management, output monitoring, administrative procedures and governance. The Head of Economic Regeneration (lead officer for Derbyshire County Council on the project) has consulted with the Director of Legal Services and the advice has been provided that approval is sought from the Cabinet Member to sign the Partnership Agreement on behalf of the Council.

Project Staffing

The previous report on 15 December, 2015 noted that further discussions were being held with Derby City Council with regard to the proposed staffing resource. Officers have agreed that both proposed posts would be most effectively employed by a single authority and it has been agreed that Derby City Council (as lead body) would be best placed to manage the resource, given that it is the accountable body for the project. Both the new posts will be deployed fully across the D2 (Derby and Derbyshire) area and managed collaboratively by Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council as part of the management arrangements set out in the Partnership Agreement. Both posts are currently being evaluated by Derby City Council and will be advertised shortly. Derbyshire County Council will be involved in the recruitment and selection process for both posts.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The Cabinet Member approved match funding of £72,452 on 15 December 2015 (split equally between ERDF and ESF) across the three financial years of the project (Minute No. 54/15 refers). The funding allocation will be provided from the Economic Regeneration budget.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The Partnership Agreement has been reviewed by the Director of Legal Services.

(5) **Human Resource Considerations** As detailed in the report. Derby City is the managing (and employing) authority. There are therefore no direct Human Resources implications for Derbyshire County Council.

(6) **Social Value Considerations** The D2N2 Technical Assistance project has been designed to ensure all local groups eligible to apply for ESIF support are provided with the advice and capacity to do so. Advice available will include support for bid development and all relevant procurement requirements, this will include support for the local labour market and local businesses wherever possible.

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(7) **Key Decision** No.

(8) **Call-in** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(9) **Background Papers** Previous report to cabinet member meeting, Strategic Policy, Economic Development and budget on 15 December 2015. Other relevant papers held on file by the Economy and Regeneration Service within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Frank Horsley, extension 38348.

(10) **OFFICERS RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

- 10.1 Authorises entering into the Partnership Agreement with Derby City Council and other partners for the delivery of the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire) Technical Assistance project.
- 10.2 Notes and approves the proposals for the recruitment and employment of the two D2 (Derby and Derbyshire) Technical Assistance project officers.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities