

Background

1. This briefing offers an update to the Investment & Infrastructure Board (IIB) on the progress regarding the N2 Town Centre (N2TC) Programme. The Programme was approved at the January 2018 meeting of the IIB and since that time, a focus has been retained on realising the requirements of the programme in line with the conditions of award, summarised as follows.

Latest Position

2. **Agreements.** As a Programme, an inter-related set of agreements are required governing the relationship between the LEP and its accountable body Derbyshire CC and Nottinghamshire CC as the accountable body for the Programme and its relationship thence between it and the project leads. These legal documents have been the subject of lengthy clarification and discussion between the various parties and a suite of legal agreement template documents has now been agreed.
3. **External Assessors.** Genecon has now been appointed by Nottinghamshire County Council to support the business case assessments for all the projects within the Programme, in line with the D2N2 LEP's Local Assurance Framework. An inception meeting is being held shortly and in advance of that, the details of all the applications as received to date will be shared with them. An early prioritisation has been offered of the early spending projects, requesting they address the business case assessments first, including, Arnold Market, Mansfield Old Town Hall and Beeston town centre. The fullest opportunity has been afforded the consultants to liaise with the individual project sponsors over the details.
4. **N2TC Programme Board.** One of the conditions of the approval from the D2N2 LEP is the establishment of a Programme Board. The Board will oversee the Programme and make recommendations regarding individual projects to the County Council as the accountable body for the Programme, in line with and accounting for the recommendations of the external assessors. A Terms of Reference for the Board has been drafted and is currently the subject of consultation with the respective partners, including the District Councils and the D2N2 LEP. It has been circulated alongside the Governance and Management Arrangements (to be attached as an Appendix to the Terms of Reference) as submitted as part of the wider IIB approval of the programme in January 2018. It is anticipated that a first meeting will be held shortly, subject to the progression and assessment of the individual project cases.
5. The County Council has maintained contact with the applicants over these issues and is seeking to provide the administrative support required to ensure that the overall process, monitoring and reporting arrangements are effectively managed.

This report is for noting.

Geoff George
Nottinghamshire County Council