



**Council Cabinet**  
**17 July 2019**

Report sponsor: Andy Smith, Strategic Director  
of People Services

Report author: Pauline Anderson, Service  
Director, Learning and Skills

## **ITEM 2**

### **D2N2 Career and Employability Hub**

#### **Purpose**

- 1.1 To seek approval by Council Cabinet to jointly bid for a European Social Fund grant to develop a careers and employability hub, with Nottingham Futures. Nottingham Futures will be co-ordinating the bid.

#### **Recommendation**

- 2.1 To join with our top tier local authority partners in D2N2 (Local Enterprise Partnership) and jointly bid for a European Social Fund grant to develop a careers and employability hub, with Nottingham Futures co-ordinating the bid.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to accept the grant to the Strategic Director of People Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources.
- 2.3 To delegate authority to accept the terms and conditions of the grant to the Strategic Director of People Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources.

#### **Reasons**

- 3.1 To engage with small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to raise awareness of the business imperative of working with local schools and colleges to build a talent pipeline of future employees.
- 3.2 Offer support to the SMEs to remove barriers and help build capacity to provide a range of meaningful and inspirational interactions between employers and young people. This will include experiences of the work place, curriculum projects, internship opportunities and showcasing careers in a range of key employment sectors. In doing so raising awareness, and therefore aspirations of young people and providing SMEs with a well-prepared future workforce.
- 3.3 To support young people in to employment in Derby and across the D2N2 region and especially in to SMEs where recruitment is often difficult.

## Supporting information

- 4.1 There are nearly 72,000 businesses in the D2N2 area that are small and medium sized enterprises. Unlike large companies much of the D2N2 employer base lacks the capacity, knowledge and incentives to engage with education and training institutions and need practical and coherent routes to engage with these bodies and the future workforce to provide labour market intelligence and create job ready young people.
- 4.2 D2N2 is inviting tenders from organisations that can work across the whole D2N2 area to put employers at the heart of inspiring and informing young people about future opportunities available. Through this, employers will be given the opportunities to partner with schools and organisations that work with young people to provide the inspiration and information about job opportunities, new technologies, business developments and local skills shortages to young people, their teachers, parents / carers and other professionals that work with young people.
- 4.3 This proposal recommends that Derby City Council joins with the other top tier local authorities across the D2N2 region to tender for this and with Nottingham Futures leading the tender. The total pot of funding available across all four areas is £1,522,181 and match funding of £1,522,181 is required although this can be in kind, for example, existing salaries can contribute towards this. We do not expect to need any cash to meet our match funding requirements. The application submission date is 1 August 2019 and the project is expected to run until 31 December 2023.
- 4.4 The proposed project will need to add value to, and not duplicate, the work of the current Careers and Enterprise Company, National Careers Service and other local youth engagement programmes to give educational establishments an added value model of careers and employability provision. Typical activities could include:
  - support provided to the SMEs to remove any barriers to engagement and help develop activities that will benefit the SME in terms of accessing their future talent pipeline.
  - Engagement with local SMEs, targeting the identified priority sector areas.
  - Development of an 'Open Doors' model to allow young people to experience the work place to help raise awareness and aspirations.
  - Variety of good quality work experiences placements.
  - Creation of a menu of activities that SMEs and schools can commit to being involved with, that are quality assured and provide meaningful and inspirational interactions between employer and young people.
  - Foster enterprise and entrepreneurial skills amongst young people.
  - Showcase career pathways and progression opportunities.

## **Public stakeholder engagement**

- 5.1 The local enterprise partnership has held a number of consultation events and the four top tier authorities have attended in addition to private and not for profit organisations. We are not aware of any private or not for profit organisations are intending to bid.

## **Other options**

- 6.1 Derby City Council could stimulate the market and encourage private or not for profit companies to tender. Any successful bid needs to be able to cover the whole D2N2 area and there are no indications that private or not for profit companies are intending to bid. Therefore, it is important that a partnership bid is submitted in order to try and maximise opportunities that are available.

## **Financial and value for money issues**

- 7.1 If successful, our share of the match funding will be met from our staff input in running the programme. Incoming funds will maximise delivery across the sub region for the benefit of our young people. The Council is not able to support match funding unless it is in kind. If the match funding cannot be identified the proposal will not proceed.

## **Legal implications**

- 8.1 The provision of the grant is likely to be subject to conditions the details of which are unknown at this time. These will be reviewed at the appropriate time to understand their implications, if any. As a partnership bid, section 151 officer sign-off may be required. The legal service will advise as appropriate when more is known.

## **Other significant implications**

- 9.1 None

**This report has been approved by the following people:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of sign-off</b>
<b>Legal</b>	Olu Idowu	10.7.19
<b>Finance</b>	Janet Bowlzer	9.7.19
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Pauline Anderson	9.7.19
<b>Report sponsor</b>	Andy Smith	9.7.19

Other(s)	Don McLure	10.7.19
Background papers: List of appendices:		