D2N2 Social Inclusion & Equalities Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday 2nd March, 10.00am – 12.00pm

**Erewash CVS, Granville Avenue, Long Eaton, NG10 4HD**

**Attendees**

Rachel Quinn D2N2 LEP

Katrina Woodward D2N2 LEP

Colin Bradley Groundwork

Dave Buckley Enable

Laurie Moran One East Midlands

Andria Birch One East Midlands

Jules Sebelin Nottingham CVS

Andrew Redfern Framework HCA

Sylvia Green Rural Action Derbyshire

Helen Kearsley Cree Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire

Sandra Casey (minutes) One East Midlands

**Apologies**

Hilary Porter Nottinghamshire County Council

Michael Henry Communities Inc.

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| **1.0** | **Welcome / introductions / declarations of interest** |  |
| **2.0** | **D2N2 Board and ESIF committee - feedback** |  |
| 2.1 | The presentation on the role of the VCS in the D2N2 economy to the D2N2 Board was omitted from the January agenda but will take place at the next D2N2 Board meeting 10/3/17. The presentation has previously been discussed by SIEAG members and has been amended following feedback at meetings. The VCS rep, Sylvia Green, is not available for the meeting so Rachel will present to the Board. The Chair of D2N2 Board will introduce the presentation and this will give gravitas to the presentation. |  |
| 2.2 | Sylvia reported that there seemed to be a divergence of opinions on items on the agenda at D2N2 Board meetings. The public sector reps are trying to broaden out the focus from skills and people into jobs. In Derbyshire there is a focus on the differences between D2N2 and Sheffield City Region policy. Private sector reps seem to be frustrated by this wider focus and VCS should keep an eye on how this situation develops. |  |
| 2.3 | ESIF programmes are still being developed but there is a feeling of frustration caused by the Managing Authorities - with D2N2 having limited powers for decision making. Rachel reflected that in the set-up of the 2014-20 programme the powers that the EU Commission allowed to be devolved locally were very minimal. There is a continued feeling that the commission does not understand the role and importance of LEPs and feel they are too local. |  |
| **3.0** | **Social Inclusion Framework refresh – feedback from steering group** |  |
| 3.1 | See previously circulated paper with feedback from steering group.The Steering Group met on 24th Feb and discussions were broad ranging and beyond a basic refresh of the SIF. Focus is now likely to be integrated in the wider review of the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan and will involve analysing data and local approaches; principles and mechanisms to influence economic outcomes and how to apply these to economic priorities. Key points from discussions:* the refresh is an opportunity to make a change to the system to improve the opportunities for those that are not benefiting from the current system or in areas of high employment but low skilled work
* social inclusion needs to be embedded in economic development, to include local procurement and local spend
* Derbyshire County Council is developing a social value policy which will be embedded across all its commissioning
* D2N2 has provided funding to pay for additional research to inform the SEP refresh – this includes relevant inclusion data
* Katrina is designing more fluid pathways and opportunities for ESIF beneficiaries to make support more coherent – we need some time for this to embed and assess impact
* ESF lead providers network has been set up and will provide useful data for comparison
* There is a need to engage the private sector in discussions around inclusive economies - Rachel is exploring opportunities to do this.
* suggestion of a Social Value Award to celebrate private sector successes
* the SIF review is due to be finalised by January 2018

Rachel is currently seeking national support from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Economic Inclusion Unity (DCMS). A further meeting of the steering group to be held once these avenues have been explored. |  |
| **4.0** | **SIEAG governance review** |  |
| **4ai** | **D2N2 Board representation** |  |
| 4ai.1 | Sylvia Green is standing down as VCS rep on the D2N2 and ESIF Boards as she is leaving the sector. The group approved the process of recruitment – interview panel, invite applications against role description. Sylvia advised that she found it useful to attend both the D2N2 and ESIF Boards and that her time investment was 1 day per quarter. Andria Birch agreed to be involved on the interview panel. | D2N2 Chair to approve process; RQ to initiate recruitment |
| **4aii** | **D2N2 sub group representation - Equalities** |  |
| 4aii.1 | Matt Allbones is changing jobs and is unsure if he will be able to continue to represent the VCS at the Equalities sub group. Michael Henry happy to continue but would like alternate as existing system has worked well (especially considering technical complexity and breadth of equalities issues) . Agreed if Matt unable to continue, process as per VCSE representative to be recommended. | RQ to follow up with MA |
| **4aiii** | **D2N2 sub group representation – Strategic Review Group** |  |
| 4aiii.1 | A lot of project-level recommendations are made via the Strategic Review Group to ESIF sub-committee and it is essential that there is VCS representation to influence decisions. Matt Allbones, Michael Henry and Laurie Moran are representatives. Laurie currently attends as Chair of One EM but has recently stepped down. Andria Birch is now Chair of One EM and Sylvia recommended that she attends the SRG. This was approved. | AB to attendRQ to notify D2N2RQ to follow up MA |
| **4b** | **Review of SIEAG membership and TOR** |  |
| 4b.1 | Rachel has reviewed the terms of reference and falling attendance. Key points from discussions:* need to include ‘equalities’ in official title of the group
* the role as shown in the terms of reference is still applicable
* quorum to be added at 5 members attending
* the original membership was developed by Rachel, targeting a range of organisations across geography and organisation remit
* membership of SIEAG is an opportunity for members to influence the SIF and SEP refreshes
* potential to re-launch the SIEAG via a SIF consultation event
* VCS rep to D2N2/ESIF Boards gets legitimacy to represent the VCS through the existence of SIEAG
* potential and usefulness of the future stakeholder liaison post holders to attend SIEAG

The group requested that RQ undertake analysis of attendance and mapping across geography and specialism and report back to next meeting.  | RQ/KW to continue to work on membership and ToR |
| **5.0** | **Economic impact of new communities report** |  |
| 5.1 | This report was commissioned by D2N2 and was recently presented at East Midlands Chamber of Commerce. Although the report has been finalised, the recommendations are currently weak and further work is taking place to ensure the recommendations are clear before the report is circulated. The report shows that migration is low overall in D2N2 but not consistently distributed; leading to high concentrations and issues in some areas. The report highlights the value of new migrants, especially to some industries. Employers have not engaged well with this research. |  |
| **6.0** | **Industrial strategy** |  |
| 6.1 | Rachel provided a summary of the ‘Building our Industrial Strength’ consultation, the ’10 pillars’ of the strategy and highlighted questions that were relevant for VCS to respond to. Key points from discussions:* concern that the ’10 pillars’ did not fit with an inclusive economy and lists structures, not people
* concern that national policy is undermining local aims
* pillars are right but how are they built? They need to include people/how people will benefit
* concern was raised at a national level that productivity rates compared to staffing levels is showing as low because businesses are trying to retain staff despite not trading at full capacity, so that they have the staff in place when business improves
* consultation response should include ‘this is the issue, this is what we propose at local level’
* SIEAG members to provide examples to include in the consultation response
 | RQ to draft response to consultation and circulate for approvalAll to contribute |
| **7.0** | **D2N2 Programme Update** |  |
| **7a** | ***Building Better Opportunities and stakeholders roles*** |  |
| **7a.1** | Last open call is now closed and applications are being reviewed. Skills Local, Employ Local and Careers Local have just been announced. Youth Engagement call for Nottingham City Centre closes 12/3/17. Stakeholder liaison roles – the local authorities do not want to be the employers for these roles. Delays have occurred due to the funding for each post being in a different project but Big Lottery Fund have now agreed to the funding being amalgamated within Groundwork, who are about to launch the procurement specification for the recruitment. One organisation will recruit, manage and second the stakeholder liaison staff, who should be in post by the end of July. It was agreed that the stakeholder liaison staff should represent the local authority at the SIEAG meetings. | CB to inform SIEAG members once procurement launched |
| **7b** | ***Recent procurement outcomes INSPIRE Local etc*** |  |
| 7b.1 | No update |  |
| **7c** | ***Community Programme*** |  |
| 7c.1 | Rachel had suggested to DWP to bring forward the first call but DWP want to stick to the original timeframe. The Community Programme will be launched in April. |  |
| **8.0** | **Minutes of the December meeting** |  |
| 8.1 | The minutes of the December meeting were approved. |  |
| **9.0** | **Matters arising from the December meeting** |  |
| 9.1 | None |  |
| **10.0** | **Any other business** |  |
|  | The group wished to express their thanks to Sylvia Green for her contribution as VCS rep to the D2N2 and ESIF Boards and Chair of SIEAG. |  |
| **11.0** | **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 1 June 2017, 10.00-12.00, Erewash Voluntary Action, Granville Avenue, Long Eaton NG10 4HD |  |