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D2N2 Active Engagement Bulletin: February 2018

Welcome to the February edition of the D2N2 and One East Midlands Active Engagement bulletin; news, activities and opportunities relating to the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for the VCS and partners. This bulletin is distributed at the start of every month; providing a round-up of recent news and highlighting what's coming up.

For information on the role of LEPs and their relevance to your work please visit the One East Midlands [policy page](#). Information specific to D2N2 can be found [here](#) at One East Midlands or on the D2N2 website at www.d2n2lep.org

If you would like to contact the Active Engagement Officer at D2N2 or have items of relevance to this bulletin please contact Rachel.quinn@d2n2lep.org or tel: 07551 124225.

Update from Jane Howson: VCSE representative on the D2N2 Board

Since the last bulletin we have had another ESIF meeting and another Board meeting.

At the ESIF meeting there was an update on the performance so far regarding each main ESIF funding stream (ESF and ERDF). This was a mixed bag with some of both thematic and geographical areas performing well and others falling behind spend and impact profiles. There was a discussion about how this is managed going forward and the possibility of redistributing funds across the priorities.

It was agreed that we would closely monitor the situation going forward. It is worth bearing in mind that although D2N2 does not make investment decisions for individual projects, the LEP will be held accountable for overall performance.

At the D2N2 Board meeting the focus was on how we will take forward our strategy. There was a discussion as to how the strategic economic plan will fit with the Industrial Strategy and in fact inform our local Industrial Strategy with Government when the time comes. It was felt that it is important that we focus on the key strategic priorities that will have most impact in attracting incoming investment and maximise impact. Work is ongoing but will result in delays to any previously proposed consultation processes.

As always, if you'd to get in touch about VCSE representation on D2N2 Board and ESIF please get in touch via Rachel Quinn.

D2N2 Social Inclusion & Equalities Advisory Group (SIEAG)

Draft minutes of the SIEAG meeting on the 7th December are now available [here](#).

The next SIEAG meeting is due to take place on the 28th February. Any suggestions for agenda items or any comments in relation to the minutes should be directed to Rachel Quinn via the contact details at the top of this bulletin.

Government unlocking £330 million from dormant accounts

Up to £330 million from dormant bank and building society accounts will be used to help the homeless, disadvantaged young people, local charities and other good causes in the UK over the next four years.

£280 million will be allocated to initiatives in England to help disadvantaged young people into work, provide housing for families and vulnerable people, and tackle problem debt. Of this, up to £135 million will be used by [Big Society Capital](#) (BSC) to fund stable and long-term accommodation for vulnerable groups such as homeless people and those suffering with mental health issues, as well as to provide support for local charities and social enterprises.

Remaining funding is set to be awarded to financial inclusion and capability initiatives which will tackle issues such as problem debt, as well as improving access to financial products and services for those on lower incomes.

Read more [here](#).

Getting ready for GDPR: Capacity's GDPR Health Check tool published

Capacity has produced a General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Health Check tool, which is designed to help organisations check that they are ready for the new General Data Protection Regulations. The tool includes guidance on how to prepare for compliance with the new regulations.

Access the assessment tool [here](#).

Eligibility Criteria for INSPIRE Local widened

In consultation with D2N2 LEP, Department for Work & Pensions has now widened eligibility criteria for the ESF funded project - INSPIRE Local.

INSPIRE Local is one of the core employability programmes operating across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire with a specific focus on supporting the older (50+) long-term unemployed or those receiving health-related benefits/with a long term health condition or disability.

Changes came into effect from 15th January 2018 and broaden eligibility to this Working Links-run employability programme to include:

- Long term Unemployed or Inactive (26 weeks or longer);
- Basic Skills need and/or
- Have more than one barrier to employment. Barriers may include:
 - A lone parent;
 - An older worker (50+);
 - An ex offender;
 - Caring Responsibilities (including those returning to employment when caring responsibilities end);
 - Have physical disability or health condition, including Sensory Impairments;
 - Mental Health or Learning Disability
 - Drug/Alcohol dependency;
 - An ethnic minority;
 - Have low or no qualifications;
 - Language barrier (English not first language, etc.).

For more information contact Michael Bingwa
T: 07805 802184
Email: Michael.Bingwa@workinglinks.co.uk

Europe Direct (East Midland North) Launch event – 16th March, Nottingham

Citizens Advice Broxtowe will be launching the new Europe Direct East Midlands (North) Service that serves Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire on Friday 16th March in Nottingham.

The event will bring together a panel of independent experts and improve people's understanding of what are the key areas in the UK's relationship with Europe that may change as the Brexit negotiations progress.

It is not intended to be a re-run of the referendum debate. Instead the panel will look at some specific policy areas relevant to the local area that include trading and the EU, migration and the local economy, citizenship and freedom of movement.

For more information or to book your place visit the [online booking page](#).

New Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre to receive £500,000 via D2N2 LEP

A new Visitor Centre for Sherwood Forest will be part-funded with £500,000, via the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership.

An RSPB-led consortium, working in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council, is responsible for the project to replace the current 1970s-built centre, which is costing more than £5 million. The existing site will remain open until the new building is complete this summer. Work will then begin on sensitively taking down the old centre, which lies within a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and the land will then be allowed to return to nature.

The D2N2 LEP has now agreed to invest £500,000 in the project, following approval by the D2N2 Infrastructure and Investment Board. For more information read the full news article on the [D2N2 website](#).

New Performance Arts Centre for Derby

A new 3,000 seat music and performance venue is now a step closer for Derby City Centre.

Derby City Council formally agreed the new Derby music and performance venue project could go ahead at a budget setting meeting on the 24th January. The new venue will replace the Assembly Rooms, which has been closed since a major fire in March 2014.

Anticipated funding for the venue includes an £8.6million loan investment by D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP); subject to Derby City Council submitting a detailed business plan.

A new Derby music and performance venue, as part of a Derby City masterplan, was one of a number of projects listed in the D2N2 Growth Deal 3 bid publication, launched at the D2N2 LEP Annual Conference in July 2016, which set out what the LEP hoped to do with Local Growth Fund Round 3 money it was then bidding for from the Government.

The new performance venue will provide theatre space, room for music gigs and be a business conference facility. For more information read the [press release](#).

The Eleventh Nottingham Dragons Den Panel

Got a business idea you want to develop?

Would £3,000 help get your business idea off the ground?

Calling all budding entrepreneurs, Nottinghamshire Community Foundation have organised another Dragons Den style event hosted by Nottingham Trent University.

If you are a resident of Nottingham city or Nottinghamshire county, have a business idea and want to apply for a grant to help, apply to the den. The window for applications is open until 28th March 2018

To be considered for a grant, applicants need to be a resident of Nottingham city or Nottinghamshire county, be able to submit a realistic business plan and have a great enterprise idea.

For more information visit the [website](#).

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