

## VCSE D2N2 Representative Feedback

<b>Partnership</b>	<b>D2N2 – Board and ESIF</b>	<b>Date</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	<b>Representative</b>	Sylvia Green
<b>Present</b> Private sector representatives County, City and District council leaders & CEOs HE / FE Representatives Chamber of Commerce BIS VCS Representative Equalities Representative D2N2 Officers			<b>Apologies</b>		
<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Background</b>		<b>Impact on VCSE sector</b>		
Midlands Engine	The Midlands Engine is continuing to develop with the focus on agreeing priorities and turning the big ambitions into specific pieces of work. Staff are being recruited to drive the agenda forward and in particular to improve communication. The new Prime Minister appears to be continuing to back the Midlands Engine and the Northern Powerhouse.		Unsure at this stage but will create a momentum for jobs and growth, increased investment in transport and infrastructure and potential national influence. Need to know how sector will engage.		
Devolution	Devolution – The new Government is continuing to insist that an elected Mayor is an essential part of any devolution deal so the possibility of a D2N2 combined authority remains remote. Alternatives have been explored and now a formal joint committee of Local Authorities across the D2N2 area is being considered. The joint committee will focus on transport, skills and estates with a focus on delivering change. If there is sufficient support it is hoped the joint committee will hold its inaugural meeting early in the New Year.		A lack of devolution deal leaves the D2N2 area at risk of loss (or reduction) of investment e.g. skills funding. However, as VCSE is under-represented in devolution discussions it is also unclear at this point of the benefits of a successful deal.		
D2N2 – Mid Year Review	<p>D2N2 has carried out a mid year review which showed good progress on job creation with D2N2 growing faster than other LEPs. It was noted, however, that 80% of the new jobs created have been in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. D2N2 will be developing a new Business Plan from 1.4.2017. Productivity will be a key element alongside job creation and skills development. Social Inclusion will continue to be an essential area with increased focus on excluded communities. Concern was raised about the economic impact of welfare reform on some of the most vulnerable people in D2N2 as evidenced by research carried out by Sheffield Hallam University.</p> <p>D2N2 is due to review its Strategic Economic Plan and work is already underway to examine the evidence base.</p>		A refresh of the Social Inclusion Framework will form part of the SEP refresh process. Work will commence on this in January 2017, likely to be completed late Summer 2017. This will be discussed in detail at SIAEG on 13 <sup>th</sup> December – views from sector on approach and focus of this work in advance of that meeting welcome.		

ESIF	ESIF – concern was expressed about the Skills Funding Agency changes to the Adult Education Budget which are likely to have a detrimental impact on third sector training and skills development agencies.	Lack of cross-cutting theme data (qualitative programme indicators) was highlighted by Matt Allbones – ESIF committee and Managing Authorities agreed to consider in advance of next meeting
Growth Hub	A summary of the developing Growth Hub staffing structure was circulated – this will be made available once more vacancies are filled	The Growth Hub is open to VCSE agencies
<b>Any other comments?</b>		
<b>Date of next meeting</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	<b>Comments by (date)</b>
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