

Report of the Chief Executive

EAST MIDLANDS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on activities of EMDevco Ltd since the last meeting.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

Station Growth Strategy

At the last Committee, work of EMDevco Ltd in producing station growth strategies for areas including Toton was highlighted. The Rail Minister, Huw Merriman, has confirmed Department for Transport support for completing the work on an East Midlands Stations Growth Strategy (having re-positioned the work following the cancellation of HS2 East). The Department will provide grant funding of £750k to EMDevco Ltd to complete the work. Whilst this is less than the amount requested (£1m), EMDevco Ltd is confident that by complementing and aligning with other work underway, the Company can deliver a strategy for station growth opportunities that will maximise the region's potential.

Further details from departmental officials regarding the grant are awaited. Once these have been received, a fuller update can be given including the plans for commencing the second year of the work early in the new year. The established working arrangements including the Strategic Directors' meeting, Commissioning Group, and Transport Working Group as a means of facilitating the Company's continued joint working including with the emerging East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA) and Midlands Connect teams on associated work will be used to engage with all interested stakeholders.

Previous Work Completed by EMDevco Ltd

The Areli visioning work has been completed. However, there is no further funding available to continue with community engagement to build on this work. What has been done already however is consistent with the SPD for Toton, which the EMDevco helped to create, and the emerging Toton and Chetwynd Neighbourhood plan. The draft design code, which the EMDevco also helped create through the grant of £125,000 which it successfully obtained from the government to develop a pilot scheme, has the capability to be turned into a document which can apply to the whole of our area, and the new levelling up legislation requires design coding work across local authority areas, so this work has been helpful.

Funding of EMDevco Ltd

This Council and other founder shareholder members agreed to fund the EM Devco Ltd for three years, and no further funding commitment has been given.

Changing landscape for Business and Investment in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire

The advent of the new East Midlands County Combined Authority from May 2024 will change the landscape, as from that date the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership will be folded into the new combined authority, which will be led by a newly elected Mayor. Another factor in the changing landscape is the introduction of an East Midlands Investment zone covering Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. This will focus on clean and green new technology business growth. It is likely that the governance mechanism for this will be the new EMCCA. The Freeport overlaps with the EMDevco Ltd focus of interest, as does the new concept of the Investment zone.

The possibility of EMDevco Ltd being used as an interim delivery capability for the work required to progress the vision for the Bassetlaw STEP project and other investment projects associated with the EMCCA is being considered. However, no decisions have been made at the time of writing this report.

Options for the future

Options for the future for EMDevco Ltd are threefold

- a) It becomes a Mayoral Development Corporation
- b) It becomes a new style Urban Development corporation under the new Levelling up legislation
- c) It remains in existence until July, after the setting up of the EMCCA and if no funding is available from the EMCCA, the government or elsewhere, if the EMCCA does not agree to option a), and if funding is not available to help the company pursue option b), it is dissolved.

At the moment option c) is being pursued.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

The Council's involvement in the East Midlands Development Corporation was considered by the Policy and Performance Committee on 2 December 2020 and recommended onto the Finance and Resources Committee and full Council where the resolution was duly approved. The financial contribution of £500,000, spread equally over three financial years from 2021/22 to 2023/24, was financed from General Fund reserves. The annual contributions of £166,000 were recognised within the approved revenue budget and the Council has committed

its agreed investment for the current financial year (final year). No further funding commitment has been given at this stage.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

6. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

If EMDevco Ltd is dissolved, there will be some redundancy implications for employees of the company

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:
Not Applicable

8. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not Applicable.

11. Background Papers

Nil.