

Minutes of NDP2 Advisory Panel (P2) Economy

Friday 15th November 11.30am at Arden Grange, Buckley Green

Present: Simon MacDonald (Lead), Sandy McCaskie (JPC Lead), Geoff Norman, Simon Woods, Jonathan Dovey

Apologies: None

Conflicts of Interest: None

Proceedings:

Discussions started with an update from GN on the Business Register. It is about two thirds done and will probably contain about 160 or so businesses once complete. Many businesses were one person or 'home-working' a large number were found to be dissolved. It was suggested that this data will continue to be important for numerous reasons not least as a way of showing change and future success of the local plan. The issues concerning space or lack of it was raised and it was felt that information on commercial footage would be useful. JD would explore the use of the data included in government business rates valuation searchable reports. Having knowledge of space currently in use and empty space would be useful.

SW updated the group on the online business questionnaire going live. There were discussions about the Aecom visit and how our various groups work on visions and policy would be drawn together. Discussion was held on how we would write the vision and policy for economy and it was broadly agreed to cover protection; sustainability; growth. That development should be in lockstep with business growth. It was agreed that we should not put specific quantities or numbers in future plans or visions. We were able to include data to back up where we are now.

It was agreed that SM would draft out our response ready for the meeting on 25th November.

Next meeting: TBC