

## HyDEX – Policy Impact Plan

### Background

To better support the development of a hydrogen-based economy in the Midlands a central objective of HyDEX is to undertake activity aimed at influencing national, regional and local government policy. Given the complexity of the policy arena and the limited resources available, HyDEX needed to develop a focussed strategy.

We carried out a four-month survey with key stakeholders to identify the most pressing policy challenges which are currently limiting the development of the hydrogen economy in the Midlands. We canvassed recommendations as to which areas HyDEX should focus on with its policy work. A summary of the survey results and an initial proposal was presented at the HyDEX Hydrogen Policy Summit.

### Insights which arose from the discussion at the Policy Summit were:

- HyDEX should focus its efforts on local policy where it is best placed to carve out a unique voice instead of competing with existing national-level organisations.
- It should look to develop stronger partnership relations with national-level organisations, such as Hydrogen UK, to support their policy messaging and, where possible, enrich their activity.
- There is a need to support local authorities in the Midlands region to help them make the most of the hydrogen opportunity.
- There are regional organisations, such as D2N2 and Midlands Engine, who are keen to work with HyDEX and would be valuable in ensuring a cohesive overall approach.
- There is a need for a more joined up approach on policy messaging and the skills agenda, with HyDEX well placed to support local policy makers develop their thinking and approach around skills.

### Challenges

There are numerous local authorities in the region (24) with traditional East-West boundaries and diversity in how engaged they are with hydrogen and what opportunities hydrogen presents to them. Current HyDEX funding is time-limited and work may need to be passed to established regional organisations in future.

### Proposed Approach

- 1) To produce a toolkit/series of worksheets for use by local authorities in the region and to explore other means of communication, for example digital options, social media etc.
- 2) To identify a small group of local authorities with whom HyDEX could develop a more bespoke relationship including workshops and ongoing advice and support.
- 3) To commission a co-ordinator who would monitor policy developments and maintain strategic contacts with key national influencers in order to identify opportunities for HyDEX to support/influence policy and respond rapidly to new developments.