

## Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee

The Chair and Members of  
Vision Derbyshire Joint  
Committee

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11 January 2023

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the VISION DERBYSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE to be held on WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2023 at 9.30 am in Committee Room 2, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield S40 1LP, the agenda for which is set out below.

### AGENDA

#### Part 1 (Public Information)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest
3. Approval of Minutes (Pages 3 - 8)
4. Transfer of Host Authority and Programme Resource Arrangements (Pages 9 - 16)
5. Vision Derbyshire Thematic Updates
6. County Deal Update
7. Local Government Act 1972 - Exclusion of the Public

To move "That under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972."

## **Part 2 (Private Information)**

8. Round Table Discussion - Vision Derbyshire Review

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Rogers', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gerard Rogers, Head of Regulatory Law and Monitoring Officer  
(Chesterfield Borough Council)

**VISION DERBYSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE****Wednesday, 5th October, 2022**

Present:-

Councillor Lewis (Chair)

Councillors Dale  
P Gilby  
HartCouncillors McKeown  
Purdy

\*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

**17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Huw Bowen (CBC), Cllr Kevin Buttery (AVBC), Simon Gladwin (AVBC), Jeremy Jaroszek (EBC) and Andrew Stokes (HPBC).

**18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**19 VISION DERBYSHIRE REVIEW PROPOSAL**

The Managing Director of Derbyshire County Council proposed that a light touch review of Vision Derbyshire be undertaken. It had been three years since the introduction of the collaborative model and significant progress had been made during that time.

It was important to ensure that Vision Derbyshire continued to evolve and be fit for purpose. An independent person would be appointed to undertake the review. The original five key principles of Vision Derbyshire would be revisited to determine whether these still resonate, particularly given the major changes in relation to the East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the proposals to undertake a light touch review of the Vision Derbyshire approach and arrangements three years on be noted.
2. That the plans to appoint an independent third-party organisation to undertake the review be approved.
3. That the Vision Derbyshire Steering Group be tasked with coordinating the review process and reporting back to the next meeting of the Joint Committee in November 2022.
4. That the proposals to review the current temporary hosting arrangements in light of key challenges in recruiting to the Vision Derbyshire programme team be approved.

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## **VISION DERBYSHIRE THEMATIC AREAS**

### **(a) BUILD PROACTIVE COMMUNITIES - UPDATE**

The Policy Manager of Derbyshire County Council presented an update on the Building Proactive Communities theme. The joint committee heard that five projects had been identified and each authority had been asked for nominations to join the working groups. A strategic group of officers was required to assist with the scoping of this substantial area of work and the focus would be on insight and intelligence sharing.

### **(b) SEIZE INNOVATION - UPDATE**

The Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council presented an update to the Joint Committee on the Vision Derbyshire Business Start Up Support Programme. It was noted that an expected decrease in the number of enquiries over the summer period had not materialised and the programme was performing well.

Guidance on the provision of discretionary micro-grants was under revision to ensure the most efficient use of funds. A collection of positive feedback continued to grow and it was hoped that the scheme would continue beyond the termination of funding in 2023.

**(c) ESTABLISH RELENTLESS AMBITION - FESTIVAL OF BUSINESS 2022/2023**

The Leader of Derbyshire County Council introduced a report to the committee following the success of last year's Festival of Business proposing a second festival on behalf of Vision Derbyshire. An application for funding from the Retain Business Rates Fund was recommended, to be allocated by the D2 Joint Committee.

The Chief Executive of Derbyshire Dales District Council outlined the key activities proposed as follows;

- Showcasing Derbyshire's business community
- Educational engagement programme
- Online and face to face masterclasses
- The Derbyshire Business Expo

The importance of supporting this effective event was highlighted and reinforced by the event evaluation provided in appendix 1 of the report.

The Head of Business Engagement and Employability at the University of Derby advised the committee that the University was in the process of creating a sustainable funding stream in order to make the event self-sustaining.

**(d) LIVE AND WORK SUSTAINABLY - REPORT ON PLANNING AND CLIMATE: FUTURE PROPOSED WORK STREAMS FOR PHASE FOUR**

The Leader of Derbyshire Dales District Council advised the joint committee that two officers' groups had been established to develop, coordinate and oversee the Planning and Climate Change work. The joint committee heard that there had been representation from the county council and all district and borough councils on both groups and genuine enthusiasm from the participants.

The Assistant Director of Regulatory Services from Derbyshire County Council confirmed that the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy had been approved, supported or endorsed by all individual councils and the Action Plan being developed would be presented to the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Lead Members and Portfolio Holders for endorsement.

The Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document had been implemented by individual authorities to support their Local Plans. It had been agreed that Vision Derbyshire would fund the development of the supporting metric, however, a software company had not yet been identified to undertake the work.

A review of renewable energy had been undertaken, supported by grant funding from the Midlands Net Zero Hub, D2 Energy Board and Business Rate Funding. The study would help authorities to strategically assess sites and applications as part of both the Local Plan and Development Management process respectively. The study would also highlight opportunities for different typologies of renewable energy development in the most appropriate locations across Derbyshire.

Two potential work areas had been identified to progress phase four of this workstream;

- 1) Creation of a Climate Change Design Code to achieve high quality places whilst supporting the delivery of clean and green growth in Derbyshire.
- 2) Development of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Guidance to ensure a consistent approach to BNG across the county and retain the benefits within Derbyshire.

The Chief Executive of North East Derbyshire District Council advised that a number of authorities had been successful in securing external funding to decarbonise buildings which was a good illustration of where Vision Derbyshire could lead by example.

Accelerated retrofitting had been successful with social housing stock but it was acknowledged that this was a more difficult prospect in the private sector and Green Homes Grants had suffered from a lack of awareness.

The proposed co-ordinated approach was deemed to be the best route to help to deliver the net zero agenda. The intention was to produce an action plan to be presented at a future joint committee meeting.

### **RESOLVED –**

1. That Vision Derbyshire Leaders note the progress on the Climate Change and Planning workstream.
2. That the two further proposed workstreams namely a Climate Change Design Guide and a Biodiversity Net Gain planning guidance be agreed.

### **(e) Q1 ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Policy Manager, Derbyshire County Council recommended that the achievements of Vision Derbyshire be recorded in a formal structure and data collected to evidence its successes.

The Managing Director of Derbyshire County Council reminded the joint committee that the East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority had been chosen by the Government to be a pathfinder authority and that the Vision Derbyshire structure had been crucial in supporting the development of the county deal.

## **21 PRESENTATION ON COUNTY DEAL AND EAST MIDLANDS MAYORAL COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY UPDATE**

The Managing Director of Derbyshire County Council outlined the current position in respect of the development of a Devolution/County Deal for Derbyshire and Derby and Nottinghamshire and Nottingham and the establishment of an East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority (EMMCCA) for the area.

Significant progress had been made since the last joint committee meeting in July 2022. In early August 2022 the negotiations with Government had been accelerated and a deal was formally announced 30 August 2022. It was expected that Mayoral elections would take place in May 2024. The deal represented a historic opportunity as the first Mayoral Combined County Authority under the new legislation.

The key focus was on the core economic infrastructure with potential to build on and enhance the deal over time. The financial benefits of the deal were listed including;

- An East Midlands Investment Fund
- Devolved capital funding to support the building of new homes
- Capacity funding to support the MCCA in its early stages
- Capacity funding to support the pipeline of housing sites
- Further capital to support the delivery of shorter-term housing and net zero priorities
- Capacity funding to support the preparation of the Local Transport Plan

An overview was given of the new Mayor's functions and also the powers that would be granted to the MCCA. It was clarified that no district authority functions would be removed. The joint committee was also informed of the functions that would be devolved from Government to the MCCA. A detailed constitutional and governance framework would be drawn up.

The next stage would be to develop a proposal document to support public consultation and to establish a template report and alignment of timescales for upper tier Council sign off in early November 2022.

## **22 MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the Vision Derbyshire Committee on 11 July, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.





## Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee

### Transfer of Host Authority and Programme Resource Arrangements

<b>Date:</b>	18 January 2023
<b>Key ambition area:</b>	All
<b>Sponsors:</b>	Emma Alexander and Huw Bowen
<b>For publication:</b>	Yes

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 To seek approval for the transfer of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee host authority and programme resource arrangements from Chesterfield Borough Council to Derbyshire County Council from the 1 April 2023.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Note the work undertaken by Chesterfield Borough Council as Host Authority in standing up and servicing the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee, driving forward associated Vision Derbyshire agenda and activities during 2022.

2.2 Note the changing context regarding Vision Derbyshire and potential position of the programme to support the future implementation of the proposed East Midlands Devolution deal should this be formally approved.

2.3 Approve proposals to transfer the Vision Derbyshire hosting and programme resource arrangements from Chesterfield Borough Council to Derbyshire County Council, subject to formal agreements from constituent authorities.

#### 3.0 Reason for recommendations

3.1 Establishing the programme resource is critical in supporting the implementation of Vision Derbyshire Phase 4 and county deal proposals. Without the programme resource there is limited capacity to progress delivery and further develop identified programme activity.

#### 4.0 Report details

- 4.1 The Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee was established and held its first meeting on 4 April 2022. Prior to the first meeting, constituent authorities had formally agreed that Chesterfield Borough Council would be designated as the interim Host Authority, with agreement that interim arrangements would be reviewed after a period of six months pending the arrival of the long awaited Levelling Up White Paper and the potential for the development of a Devolution/County Deal for Derbyshire.
- 4.2 The Host Authority was designated responsibility for the following functions:
- Administering meetings of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee, holding funding on behalf of the Joint Committee and providing statutory officer support for the Joint Committee.
  - Establishing a programme resource including a new joint Vision Derbyshire programme team, tasked with accelerating and supporting the implementation of delivery plans and proposals is a critical element of Phase 4 proposals.
- 4.3 To support and adequately resource Phase 4 ambitions and plans, a range of resources were deemed vital to the success of the programme and were subsequently agreed by the current full member authorities - Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and High Peak Borough Council - on 4 April 2022. These include the:
- Creation of a programme team comprising a combination of seven team members to facilitate delivery
  - Establishment of a programme budget with funding to support the buy in of specialist expertise and support and support the operation of the Joint Committee and other associated costs
  - Creation of a small communications budget with dedicated funding to support potential branding, design, campaigns, social media activity etc
  - Establishment of a small equipment, travel and subsistence budget to support the activities of the programme team
  - Provision of accommodation for Joint Committee meetings and to host staff to be resourced from in-kind support from host agency/agencies.

The detailed breakdown of the provisional costs for identified activities can be found at section 6.1 of this report.

- 4.4 The total cost of taking forward proposed activity per annum stands at £383,804 and it was agreed these would be shared across full member Councils as follows:

<b>Council</b>	<b>£</b>
County Council	174,499
District and Borough Councils	52,350 per council x four councils

	209,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>383,899</b>

- 4.5 The Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee successfully convened four times in 2022, with Chesterfield Borough Council and its officer’s instrumental in supporting the Joint Committee in driving forward Vision Derbyshire agenda and Derbyshire County Council providing strategic support, programme management and associated activity to support the overall delivery of the approach over that period. The Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee and related structures such as the Vision Derbyshire Chief Executives Group and the Vision Derbyshire Leaders and Chief Executives Group have played a crucial role in driving forward collaborative priorities linked to the Vision Derbyshire delivery programme.
- 4.6 It is clear the work undertaken on Vision Derbyshire has also been a fundamental driver and uniquely positioned Derbyshire and Derby, as one of the first pathfinder areas to progress devolution proposals alongside Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. The subsequent East Midlands Devolution Deal, signed and published on 30 August 2022, is therefore testament to the work, dedication and collaborative efforts of participating and non-participating councils in Derbyshire to the Vision Derbyshire approach.
- 4.7 Whilst significant progress has been made on the development of the Vision Derbyshire approach to date, the lack of capacity however, particularly at a project and programme delivery level has limited the ability to accelerate the wider delivery programme.
- 4.8 Since April 2022, work to stand up the programme resource and recruit into the programme team has been undertaken by Chesterfield Borough Council, as the temporary host authority with support from Derbyshire County Council. This has been challenging, with the one year programme roles proving difficult to fill.
- 4.9 The Vision Derbyshire Steering Group explored a number of options, for example offering roles on a longer-term basis, however the current temporary nature of funding on offer from the majority of participating councils has meant that this option has not been possible to implement.
- 4.10 Given the nature of hosting arrangements, in place and subject to review after a six-month period and the development of the East Midlands Devolution Deal, it was agreed at the 5 October 2022 Joint Committee that further discussions take place to revisit current arrangements. The availability of additional programme resource to drive forward and implement agreed activity is essential and was agreed that following a review of existing arrangements,

a further report setting out a revised approach be brought back to the Joint Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

- 4.11 The review of hosting arrangements forms part of a wider light touch review, also agreed at the 5 October 2022 Joint Committee, to ensure that the Vision Derbyshire approach is fit for purpose for the future. This review, undertaken by East Midlands Councils, is gathering Councils views on current arrangements, challenges and opportunities and ambitions for the future.
- 4.12 Whilst the Devolution Deal is subject to consultation, local agreement and legislative change, it will be important to ensure that the Vision Derbyshire approach continues to evolve to meet new demands and is prepared for changes in local context. This will be critical in ensuring that Derbyshire remains well positioned to maximise the benefits from the Deal, if it is agreed it should move into implementation.
- 4.13 A series of discussions have taken place between Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council on future hosting arrangements. Whilst the hosting considerations are clearly interrelated with the wider review of the whole approach, promptly establishing the programme team to ensure that any new approach is adequately resourced is of vital importance.
- 4.14 Through these discussions it has been agreed that Derbyshire County Council would now be best placed to undertake the role of Host Authority moving forward due to the progress made on agreeing a devolution deal with Government and the anticipated work associated with building and aligning plans to a potential new combined county authority. Derbyshire County Council has also recently established a Programme Management Office, and this puts the Council in a strong position to recruit to the programme team on a permanent basis and assume the risks associated with progressing in this manner.
- 4.15 Derbyshire County Council will prepare for the transition of host arrangements, from the 1 April 2023, with the following actions planned over the coming period in preparation:
- Transfer of roles and responsibilities of Host support and administration
  - Review and reprofile of programme team roles against Derbyshire County Council person profiles and grading structures
  - Commence the recruitment of programme team with support from Chesterfield Borough Council officers
  - Transfer the allocated programme funding from Chesterfield Borough Council to Derbyshire County Council
  - Take forward reports at constituent member decision making committees to formally approve revised arrangements.

4.16 There may be subsequent changes necessary to the Vision Derbyshire programme following the findings of the wider light touch review and these will be outlined as part of that review, for agreement at a subsequent meeting.

## 5 Alternative options

5.1 None – the arrangements for establishing the programme resource have been formally agreed by full member Vision Derbyshire councils and are now being implemented.

## 6 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

6.1 The total cost of taking forward Vision Derbyshire proposals as set out in the report is £383,804. A breakdown of costings is set out below:

Resource	£'s
<b>Programme Team</b>	
1 x Grade 12 Programme Manager	42,821
	oncosts 11,133
4 x Grade 8 Senior Project Officers (1 per theme)	114,688
	oncosts 29,820
1 x Grade 8 Communications Officer	28,672
	oncosts 7,455
1 x Grade 5 Admin Support	20,092
	oncosts 5,223
	<b>259,904</b>
<b>Programme Team total</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>Programme Budget</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Equipment, Travel and Subsistence and host authority costs</b>	<b>8,900</b>
<b>Communications Budget</b>	
	<b>Total</b>
	<b>383,804</b>

6.2 Where an authority determines through its own governance arrangements that it no longer wishes to be a member of the Joint Committee, that authority may cease its membership with effect from the date of its decision. However,

authorities will remain liable for any previously agreed financial contributions to fund Vision Derbyshire until the end of the financial year for which those contributions have been agreed regardless of any decision to cease membership.

- 6.3 Where long-term liabilities, such as any Pension Fund shortfall, exists they will be calculated at the point membership ceases and any council exiting the arrangement will pay Derbyshire County Council as the interim host authority an amount to cover their share of that liability.

## **7 Implications for consideration – Legal**

- 7.1 Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 (LGA 1972) permits councils to make arrangements for two or more authorities to discharge any of their functions jointly, and arrange for the discharge of those functions by a Joint Committee.
- 7.2 Under the legislation, all members would have the right to participate and vote on any matters at the Joint Committee. However, voting rights can be restricted in the Terms of Reference to members of those authorities who have delegated to it so that authorities would not be able to vote in respect of functions they have not delegated to the Joint Committee. This is the approach developed for the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee.
- 7.3 Within the articles of the Joint Committee, agreed at the 4 April 2022 Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee, ‘Section C’ under ‘functions and responsibilities’, oversight of the Vision Derbyshire Delivery Programme is delegated to the Joint Committee. Establishing this programme resources therefore falls under the decision making remit of the Joint Committee.

## **8 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

- 8.1 The Host organisation will be responsible for the recruitment and hosting of the seven Programme Team posts, and this will be in line with standard recruitment and remuneration policies.
- 8.2 Proposals for the Programme Team included the creation of the following roles, in line with the interim host authority’s pay and grading arrangements on a permanent basis, for the reasons outlined in the report:
- 1 x Grade 12 Programme Manager
  - 4 x Grade 8 Senior Project Officers (one per ambition theme)
  - 1 x Grade 8 Communications Officer
  - 1 x Grade 5 Admin Support.

- 8.3 The Programme Team will now report to their dedicated Accountability/Line Manager within Derbyshire County Council on both matters relating to their employment and operational matters relating to the delivery of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee work programme. Lead officers across future delivery programmes will work closely with the programme team and will also be responsible for holding team members to account by working with the Host Authority to monitor their effectiveness and flag any issues of inadequate performance, incompliance or substandard conduct.
- 8.4 It is proposed that all posts will be created on a permanent basis, and as such, will be subject to the Host council’s redundancy and redeployment policies and procedures.
- 8.5 Full Vision Derbyshire members will be asked to confirm their willingness to recognise an obligation to the postholders, through offering redeployment opportunities as appropriate, should this become necessary.

**9 Implications for consideration – Climate change**

- 9.1 Climate change activity forms part of delivery proposals and it is expected that the programme budget and team will support the delivery of associated programmes of work and projects as they develop and are brought forward

**10 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity**

- 10.1 Equality Impact Assessments (EIA’s) in relation to specific project and programme activities will form a key part of Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee considerations to ensure that appropriate mitigations are developed for potential negative impacts on people with protected characteristics, and positive impacts maximised. An EIA for this particular decision is not needed as the report relates to an administrative decision rather than an issue of policy.

**11 Implications for consideration – Risk management**

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Inability to recruit to programme team roles	High	Medium	Work will take place to identify the appropriate recruitment opportunities to secure appointments across the team	Medium	Low
Insufficient programme budget to support project delivery	Medium	Medium	Should additional resources be required this would be the subject of a full business case to	Medium	Low

			the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee with agreement on the approach to adequately resource identified activity.		
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**Document information**

<b>Report author</b>
Sarah Eaton
<b>Background documents</b> These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.
None
<b>Appendices to the report</b>
None