

## **For publication**

### **Vision Derbyshire**

<b>Meeting:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Leader
<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services

#### **1.0 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 The report provides Council with an update on the Vision Derbyshire programme and seeks approval for the Council's involvement in the next phase of work, which includes the establishment of a new Joint Committee to progress a collaborative working model between Derbyshire councils that aims to improve outcomes for people and places.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Chesterfield Borough Council continues to take an active role in progressing future phases of the Vision Derbyshire programme.
- 2.2 That the proposals for Vision Derbyshire governance, as set out in paragraphs 4.12 to 4.25 and Appendix B, are approved.
- 2.3 That Chesterfield Borough Council becomes a full member of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee, as described at paragraphs 4.12 to 4.25 and in Appendix B.

- 2.4 That a financial contribution is made to the resources required to implement Phase 4 of the Vision Derbyshire programme, as set out within section 7, the maximum cost of which currently stands at £52,350 per annum.
- 2.5 That Chesterfield Borough Council appoints the Leader of the Council, Cllr Tricia Gilby, as the Council's representative on the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee and the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Amanda Serjeant, as substitute.
- 2.6 That authority is delegated to the Leader of the Council to agree by executive member decision the arrangements for Chesterfield Borough Council to act as the host authority for the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee should it be asked to fulfil the role.
- 2.7 Notes that Chesterfield Borough Council will need to arrange through its existing Scrutiny Committees to review decisions made by the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee.
- 2.8 That the Council reaffirms its commitment to Vision Derbyshire as its preferred option for local government reform given the wider context outlined in paragraphs 4.31 to 4.35.

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 To ensure that Chesterfield Borough Council continues to play a full and active part in shaping the Vision Derbyshire programme (a non-structural approach to public service reform) for the benefit of Chesterfield's communities.

### **4.0 Background**

- 4.1 At the Cabinet meeting on 25 February 2020 members considered a report setting out proposals to improve collaborative working between Derbyshire councils. The report

outlined the outcomes of a first phase of work that had been progressed post June 2019 to explore options for strengthening collaborative working and undertaking non-structural public service reform, providing a credible alternative to local government reorganisation. Cabinet approved the active participation of Chesterfield Borough Council in the next phase of the work as well as a financial contribution (£17k) towards the resources required for that next phase.

4.2 Following similar approvals from all Derbyshire councils except Derby City, phase 2 commenced resulting in the development of Vision Derbyshire, a case for change and a proposition to Government focused around four key ambition areas:

- **Seize innovation** - pioneering skills and technologies for a sustainable future economy
- **Establish relentless ambition** - creating opportunities for everyone in Derbyshire and making these visible
- **Build proactive communities** - harnessing the energy in Derbyshire's communities and empowering people to make change
- **Live and work sustainably** - committing to a zero-carbon footprint in our tourism, wider economy and ways of working

4.3 Several enablers, including: leadership; culture; strategy; technology; workforce; customers; and assets, to support and embed collaboration, were also identified during the development of phase 2, alongside estimated organisational (£20m to £66m) and wider system benefits (£1.08bn) that could potentially be achieved if the new approach were to be taken forward. New formal governance arrangements, to support effective decision making, were also identified during this phase as being crucial in taking Vision Derbyshire forward, in addition to several early asks of Government to support realisation of the afore-mentioned ambition areas.

4.4 At the conclusion of phase 2, a further report came to Council in October 2020 providing an update on the work. An Executive Summary of the Case for Change and a copy of the Proposition to Government – key outputs from phase 2 – were attached to the report to Council. A broader update was also provided on the matter of local government reorganisation and the emerging positions of Derbyshire councils. The report cited the consensus at that time as being:

*“now is not the right time for structural reform of local government in Derbyshire. At a time of national crisis, the priority must be to focus the collective efforts of all Derbyshire councils on supporting the county’s residents, businesses and communities through the now inevitable second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic rather than risk entering a phase of open hostility between councils and councillors which will serve only to distract and take valuable resources away from the frontline services that our communities rely on.”*

Given this, Council resolved that ‘Vision Derbyshire be approved as the Council’s preferred option for local government reform in Derbyshire at the current time’.

4.5 Following similar consideration at other councils, in October 2020, the Leaders and Chief Executives of eight Derbyshire councils (all Derbyshire councils excluding Derby City Council and South Derbyshire District Council) met and agreed to progress and commence implementation of phase 3 of the Vision Derbyshire approach. Phase 3 involved translating the case for change and proposition to Government, developed during phase 2, into a practical programme of work across five workstreams:

- Strategic and Tactical Development
- Building a Team
- Accelerated Delivery Programme

- Governance Model
- Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

- 4.6 Phase 3 has seen significant progress being made in a relatively short period of time. During this phase, Leaders and Chief Executives supported by lead officers have taken responsibility for particular ambition areas and workstreams. For example, Chesterfield Borough Council's Leader has led on the 'Seize Innovation' ambition area, the council's Service Director for Housing has fulfilled the lead officer role for the 'Build Proactive Communities' ambition area, and the council's Chief Executive has led on the Governance, and Communications and Engagement workstreams.
- 4.7 This phase of work has also involved progressing a range of pilot activities to test the approach. This has led to the establishment of a county wide Business Entrepreneur Scheme, the launch of a new annual Derbyshire Festival of Business with the University of Derby, and a refreshed approach to delivering improved Homelessness services which proved of particular value during the Covid-19 pandemic. In doing so, the benefits of the model in delivering improved outcomes for people and places have begun to be demonstrated.
- 4.8 Significant progress has also been made on the 'Governance Model' with proposals designed and developed for a new Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee (more details of which are included below from paragraph 4.12), and work progressed in partnership with the University of Derby on the development of a new Vision Derbyshire brand.
- 4.9 As phase 3 ended, council Leaders and Chief Executives met in March 2021 and agreed to a further phase – phase 3a – which would take the programme to the point at which it could move into the delivery phase (phase 4). Phase 3a has focussed on:

- developing detailed delivery plans for the four ambition areas
- identifying key enablers and potential shared services which can be further developed through the Vision Derbyshire approach
- securing buy in to the new formal governance arrangements
- securing resources for dedicated joint programme support
- broadening and deepening the engagement and involvement of other elected members and senior officers from Derbyshire councils
- re-engaging with Government and other key stakeholders to gain support for Vision Derbyshire as a non-structural approach to public service reform.

### **Current position**

4.10 It is anticipated that phase 3a will complete by the end of October 2021 in time for the launch of phase 4. In Phase 4 participating councils will:

- Confirm the detailed implementation proposals that have been developed during phase 3a for the four ambition areas and the delivery arrangements for both short and medium-term programmes of activity
- Establish a new joint Vision Derbyshire programme team, tasked with accelerating and supporting implementation of the delivery arrangements
- Extend and deepen the engagement and involvement of elected members, senior managers and partner organisations
- Establish a new Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee formalising the decision-making arrangements for member councils
- Build a broader longer-term delivery programme to meet agreed and emerging Vision Derbyshire ambition areas.

4.11 Key priorities for each of the Vision Derbyshire ambition areas are set out below:

<b>Ambition</b>	<b>Priorities</b>
<b>Seize Innovation</b>	Business Entrepreneur Scheme
	Smart Towns Programme
<b>Achieve Relentless Ambition</b>	Careers
	Skills and Employability
	Festival of Business
	Social Mobility
<b>Communities</b>	Homelessness
	Independent Living
	Domestic Abuse
<b>Live and Work Sustainably</b>	Climate Change
	Shared Planning Policies

A high-level plan, which sets out early starts and additional short-term activities in respect of the four ambition areas, alongside Leader, Chief Executive and Lead Officer appointments is attached at Appendix A to this report.

### **Vision Derbyshire Governance**

4.12 As noted above, one of the five workstreams within phase 3 has been to establish a 'Governance Model' for Vision Derbyshire. A formal governance approach is important to evidence to Government that Derbyshire councils are serious about Vision Derbyshire as a credible non-structural alternative to local government reorganisation and a construct to which ministers may in time be persuaded to devolve funding, powers and freedoms as part of the Levelling Up agenda. Achievement of the latter outcome has now taken a step forward with the Government's recent invitation to county councils to express an interest in negotiating and agreeing County Deals. Given the work already progressed on Vision Derbyshire governance,

Derbyshire County Council considers Derbyshire councils well placed to secure such a Deal, which has the potential to bring devolved funds, powers and freedoms in respect of infrastructure, skills, housing and transport.

- 4.13 A more formal approach to governance also provides a framework for Derbyshire councils to work more effectively together, maximise opportunities for collaboration and enable agile, timely and flexible decision making.
- 4.14 Understanding the level of commitment to the proposed Governance Model is also essential in identifying the appetite of Derbyshire councils to progress to Phase 4 and beyond and participate in upcoming County Deal discussions, as required.
- 4.15 The work on the 'Governance Model' has concluded with proposals for a new Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee. The proposals have been developed through a governance working group chaired by Chesterfield Borough Council's Chief Executive and made up of Monitoring Officers from 5 of the 8 councils (including Chesterfield Borough Council). Drafts of the emerging proposals have been considered by council Leaders and Chief Executives at their regular monthly meetings through spring and summer 2021 with comments taken on board in developing the final proposals.
- 4.16 The final articles, functions and responsibilities, and procedure rules for the proposed Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee are attached at Appendix B. These provide a framework for the Joint Committee to operate as the future decision-making body for matters where Derbyshire councils agree to work collaboratively and demonstrate a collective political commitment to the approach. The articles set out the main aims of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee, which are to:
- Provide collective leadership for Derbyshire

- Progress shared ambitions for the area
- Work together to tackle the issues and challenges outlined in the case for change; and
- Enable agile, timely and effective decision making.

4.17 The Joint Committee, on behalf of the participating councils, will be responsible for improving the delivery of functions and responsibilities already within the remit of local authorities through statute or through taking forward specific collaborative work to improve the economic, environmental and / or social wellbeing of Derbyshire's residents, businesses and communities. This might be through:

- Shared services arrangements
- Incorporating existing partnership arrangements within the Vision Derbyshire model
- Identifying areas and activities that would benefit from collaborative systems changes
- Progressing work on specific thematic projects and priorities

The likely flow of decision making that will be required under three of the four areas highlighted above is summarised in a series of flow charts included as Appendix C. The charts show how individual participating councils will still be required to approve recommendations made by the Joint Committee, ahead of implementation, on substantive matters such as proposals for shared services arrangements or systems changes.

4.18 It is likely that the first task for the Joint Committee will be to approve the High-Level Phase 4 Delivery Plan detailed at paragraph 4.11 and in Appendix A and the allocation of budgets and resources to the individual programmes of work.

4.19 As the approach develops, consideration will be given to the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee taking on responsibility for

existing partnership arrangements such as the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity and associated programmes of work. As Phase 4 develops from October 2021, the Joint Committee will also take forward work on the agreed enablers (as referenced at paragraph 4.3 above) and work to identify potential areas and opportunities for shared services which are likely to result in efficiencies for those councils participating in the approach.

- 4.20 In order to establish a Joint Committee two or more councils must resolve to delegate functions and responsibilities to the Joint Committee. At this point in time, it is sufficient for the list of functions and responsibilities to be as general as those currently set out within Appendix B.
- 4.21 All Derbyshire councils will be encouraged to delegate functions and responsibilities to the Joint Committee to enable full collaboration on all aspects of the phase 4 delivery programme. However, the articles, functions and responsibilities and procedure rules also allow for those councils who choose not to delegate functions and responsibilities to the Joint Committee to still appoint members to the Joint Committee.
- 4.22 Where this difference in stance exists, it is then proposed that voting rights be restricted to only those members appointed by councils who are prepared to delegate functions and responsibilities to the Joint Committee.
- 4.23 The articles, functions and responsibilities, and procedure rules set out in Appendix B have also been drafted to recognise that councils do not have to participate in all aspects of the Vision Derbyshire approach and may instead choose to become involved in some projects but not others. Where a council chooses to become involved in a project that involves agreeing to delegate a particular function or responsibility to the Joint

Committee, its appointed member would then have the ability to exercise his / her vote on all matters relating to the project. The intention is to be inclusive without fettering the individual sovereignty of any Derbyshire council. In developing the governance arrangements, provision has been made to ensure that the door to involvement in the Vision Derbyshire approach remains open to all councils.

4.24 To ensure the effective operation of the Joint Committee, a host authority is also required. The host authority would be responsible for the administration of meetings of the Joint Committee, would hold funding on behalf of the Joint Committee and would act as the employing council for the Vision Derbyshire programme team. The host authority's statutory officers would also act as the statutory officers for the Joint Committee. At the time of writing the report, no decision has been made on the appointment of the host authority, though two councils have put themselves forward for the role, Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council. Should it be agreed that Chesterfield Borough Council fulfils the role, it is recommended that Council delegates authority to the Leader of the Council to put the necessary arrangements in place in support of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee.

4.25 All Derbyshire councils (other than Derby city and South Derbyshire district) are now being asked whether they wish to be members of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee. Chesterfield Borough Council has to date taken a full and active role within the Vision Derbyshire programme. It is recommended that this approach continues, and that the council becomes a member of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee. This will ensure the council is able to influence and shape each part of the programme, including exercising full voting rights in respect of those functions and responsibilities that the council resolves to delegate to the Joint Committee. The council will also be able to fully draw on the skills,

capabilities and capacity of the proposed Vision Derbyshire programme team as it collaborates with other councils on the four ambition areas. This in turn will maximise the prospects of the Vision Derbyshire programme delivering more economic, efficient and effective services and improving outcomes for Chesterfield's communities. It will also enable the council to collaborate fully with other member councils in promoting Vision Derbyshire as a credible alternative to local government reorganisation.

### **Vision Derbyshire Resources**

4.26 Whilst significant progress has been made on the development of the Vision Derbyshire approach to date, it has become increasingly apparent that the ability to accelerate delivery is currently limited due to the lack of capacity. This is particularly the case at a project and programme delivery level. The lack of a central programme resource at what has been a critical time for local government in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that delivery has lagged behind political commitment and ambition. Continuing to operate with limited resources is likely to see the phase 4 delivery programme stall or be significantly curtailed, greatly reducing the prospects of evidencing to Government Vision Derbyshire's standing as a credible alternative to local government reorganisation and the basis from which to negotiate a future County Deal.

4.27 Proposals for the establishment of a central programme resource were first brought to council Leaders and Chief Executives in November 2020. Whilst Chesterfield Borough Council was supportive of the proposals, they did not enjoy widespread support and work on Vision Derbyshire has continued using existing resources. Since then, the Vision Derbyshire Steering Group (which includes Chesterfield Borough Council's Chief Executive) has developed proposals to resource the phase 4 delivery programme, initially for a 12-

month period. The funding sought from each council would resource the following:

- **Programme team** – comprising a combination of suitably qualified and experienced team members to facilitate delivery
- **Programme budget** – funding to buy in specialist expertise and support, as required
- **Communications budget** – funding to support branding, design, campaigns, social media activity etc
- **Equipment, travel and subsistence** – to support the activities of the programme team
- **Accommodation** – in kind support from host authority

4.28 Proposals for the Programme team include the creation of the following roles:

- 1 x Grade 14 Programme Manager
- 4 x Grade 11 Senior Project Officers (one per ambition area)
- 1 x Grade 11 Communications Officer
- 1 x Grade 6 Administrative Support Officer

4.29 The total cost of taking forward these proposals is £436,248 per annum. It has also been agreed that the costs should be apportioned between Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire district / borough councils based on the following split:

<b>Council</b>	<b>£</b>
County Council 40% split	174,499
District and Borough Councils 60% split	261,749 (32,719 per council if eight councils) (37,393 per council if seven councils)

	(43,635 per council if six councils) (52,350 per council if five councils)
<b>Total</b>	<b>436,248</b>

4.30 The maximum cost to Chesterfield Borough Council of supporting the establishment of a central programme team for Vision Derbyshire is therefore £52,350 p.a. based on the involvement of five Derbyshire district / borough councils. This figure will reduce should a greater number of district / borough councils agree to become member councils of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee.

### **Local Government Reorganisation and other considerations**

4.31 As noted above, one of the drivers for the Vision Derbyshire programme has been to provide a credible alternative to local government reorganisation (LGR) through non-structural public service reform that will deliver the same or improved benefits to communities without incurring the significant disruption and conflict involved in LGR. At present, the government position on LGR is unclear, with a planned white paper on English Devolution and Local Recovery – which was expected to promote more unitary authorities – now deferred in favour of a Levelling Up White Paper. Whilst the Government has recently made decisions on proposals for unitarisation (in Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset) it has indicated in recent correspondence to council Leaders and Chief Executives that further proposals for LGR are only likely to be considered where a consensus for change exists amongst the relevant councils for a particular geography.

4.32 In many areas, a driver for LGR has been the prospect of creating structures to which government could then devolve

funding, powers and freedoms as it has to Combined Authorities in recent years. The likelihood of local government being able to gain such funding, powers and freedoms may have increased as a result of the recently announced review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and the approach taken by Government for recent programmes such as Town Deals and the Levelling Up Fund, which have not included a formal role for LEPs. In this context it would clearly be advantageous to have a formalised governance structure in place for Derbyshire councils that Government would consider an appropriate construct to which ministers would be prepared to devolve funding, powers and freedoms.

4.33 The preferred position of Derbyshire County Council as stated in a report to its Council in September 2020, and reaffirmed following the election in May 2021, is to pursue non-structural public service reform (through Vision Derbyshire) rather than LGR. However, it also reserved the right at the same Council meeting to develop a Plan B in order to avoid losing out on the potential benefits of devolution should Vision Derbyshire fail to become a credible non-structural option. Plan B is LGR – specifically the development of proposals for a single county unitary option.

4.34 As reported to Council in October 2020, Derby City Council chose not to participate post the completion of phase 1 of the Vision Derbyshire programme, though the opportunity for the council to re-engage with the work has remained open. Instead, Derby City Council's Leader and Chief Executive have indicated the council's intention to look at LGR – specifically the development of proposals that would involve extending the council's current constituency to include the district geographies of Erewash, South Derbyshire and Amber Valley and establishing a new Southern Derbyshire unitary council.

4.35 As the Vision Derbyshire programme moved into phase 3, South Derbyshire District Council also chose not to continue to participate. However, the other 8 councils have continued to be engaged through to the current phase of work, although it is unclear whether all will resolve to become members of the proposed Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee.

## **5.0 Alternative options**

5.1 Alternative options include pulling out of the collaboration entirely, opting not to become a member of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee or seeking to be a member without making a financial contribution. The option of withdrawing from the collaboration would leave the council with no influence over the Vision Derbyshire programme and significantly weaken its prospects of success. This in turn could lead to the programme ending and councils instead exploring structural reform options. Chesterfield Borough Council has significant influence given the size of the borough's economy and its strength within partnership arenas, and it is hard to see Vision Derbyshire continuing as planned should the council withdraw.

5.2 If the council opted not to become a member of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee, the Leader of the Council would be able to continue to attend meetings essentially as an observer (but with no voting rights) and would be able to exercise some influence in doing so. However, whilst the council would benefit from not having to contribute financially towards the costs of the programme team, this option is not recommended as it weakens both the Vision Derbyshire programme and the council's position as a lead and active partner within it.

5.3 Finally, the council could seek to be member of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee but without making a financial

contribution, for example by making available officer time as an in-kind contribution to resourcing the programme team. This option has been discounted since there is no available capacity within the council to offer this without requiring immediate backfill, which in turn would incur financial cost and in practical terms be difficult to secure given the uncertainty of the time period of such appointments.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan**

6.1 The four Vision Derbyshire ambition areas would, if fully realised, contribute to all three of Chesterfield Borough Council's Council Plan priorities. In particular, through strengthened collaboration and non-structural public service reform, the work should contribute significantly to 'providing value for money services'. By driving direct operational savings, there should be a positive contribution to the council's objective to become and stay financially self-sufficient. Access to services and customer interaction should also be enhanced through putting in place a simpler and more coherent experience for customers by taking a Derbyshire-wide approach.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and Value for Money**

7.1 The previous commitment of £17k made by the council's Cabinet in February 2020 enabled the Vision Derbyshire programme to progress through phases 2 to 3a, supplemented by the deployment of officer resources from individual councils. As set out above, there is now a need to consider additional resources if the programme is to move at pace into its delivery phase. The direct costs to the council of the proposals for a Vision Derbyshire programme team would be a maximum of £52,350 per annum, initially for a 12-month period.

7.2 The costs outlined in section 4 are further broken down in the following table, with estimated on-costs based on those applied by Derbyshire County Council.

<b>Programme Team</b>	<b>£296,248</b>
1 x Grade 14 Programme Manager fixed term	£47,181 (plus £13,211 oncosts)
4 x Grade 11 Senior Project Officers (1 per theme)	£32,913 x 4 = £131,652 (plus £36,863 oncosts)
1 x Grade 11 Communications Officer	£32,913 (plus £9,216 oncosts)
1 x Grade 6 Admin Support	£19,697 (plus £5,515 oncosts)
<b>Programme Budget</b>	<b>£100,000</b>
<b>Equipment, Travel and Subsistence</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>Communications Budget</b>	<b>£30,000</b>
	<b>Total - £436,248</b>

7.3 Should Council resolve to make a financial contribution, it is proposed that this be drawn from the Service Improvement Reserve, given that the Vision Derbyshire phase 4 delivery programme will drive improvements to council services and potentially deliver significant savings for member councils over time. It has been confirmed that provision exists within the reserve for the full (maximum) amount to be drawn down for the initial 12-month period.

7.4 In addition to direct costs, the council's participation within Vision Derbyshire has incurred indirect costs in terms of elected member and officer time since the programme commenced in summer 2019. These costs would continue, though a dedicated central programme team will inevitably take some of the current workload away from council officers.

7.5 As set out in the Vision Derbyshire case for change and proposition to Government the Vision Derbyshire proposals aim to deliver significant future savings to operational costs for all member councils. These remain high-level estimates – of between £20m and £65.9m per annum – at present and have not been broken down to the level of each individual council. These savings would be recurring and largely achieved through economies in third party spend and operational efficiencies, though estimated one-off costs of between £28m and £48.3m would need to be incurred in order to realise the recurring savings.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

8.1 Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 permits councils to come together as two or more authorities to discharge functions jointly and arrange for the discharge of these functions by a Joint Committee.

8.2 Under Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 two or more authorities may appoint a Joint Committee of those authorities for the purpose of discharging any of their functions. Those authorities would however need to agree to delegate functions or powers to the Joint Committee to enable it to discharge those functions.

8.3 Having done so, those two or more authorities may permit other authorities to appoint members to the Joint Committee without those authorities delegating functions to it. However, all authorities that wish to join the Joint Committee will need to formally agree to establish the Committee and agree the Terms of Reference to be able to appoint a member to the Joint Committee.

8.4 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 functions 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 advocated for the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee.

- 8.5 Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 enables the Secretary of State to make regulations permitting arrangements under Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 where any of the functions are the responsibility of an Authority's Executive. The relevant regulations are the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 8.6 As the functions being delegated to the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee are executive functions, the regulations also require that the councillors appointed to it should be councillors who sit on the individual Authority's Executives.

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

- 9.1 Paragraph 4.24 above references the fact that a decision has yet to be made on the matter of the appointment of the host authority for the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee. Whichever of Derbyshire County Council or Chesterfield Borough Council is appointed to fulfil the role, they would be expected to act as the employing authority for the proposed programme team.
- 9.2 It is proposed that all 7no. programme team posts would be established on a fixed term basis and in line with the host authority's pay grading structures, employment policies and procedures.
- 9.3 All member councils will be asked to confirm their willingness to recognise any employment obligations that might arise in

respect of one or more of the postholders, including offering redeployment opportunities as appropriate, should this prove necessary.

- 9.4 The next phase of the Vision Derbyshire programme is not thought to entail any human resources (HR) implications. However, the wider programme of non-structural reform would have HR implications if taken forward, particularly if direct savings at the level set out in the case for change and proposition to Government are to be realised. Such proposals would need to come back to Chesterfield Borough Council for full and proper consideration as would be the case for all member councils.

## **10.0 Implications for consideration – Risk Management**

- 10.1 Some of the wider considerations and risks associated with the Vision Derbyshire proposals are outlined in earlier paragraphs. In terms of the specific recommendations made in this report, the key risks are set out below.

<b>Description of the risk</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>
Lack of engagement from other councils results in Vision Derbyshire being unable to deliver on its potential	Medium	High	Continue to engage in Derbyshire wide discussions to promote the benefits of Vision Derbyshire; provide leadership to the Vision Derbyshire ambition areas and the Phase 4 delivery programme to ensure monetary and non-monetary benefits are fully realised and exemplified.	Medium	Medium
Joint Committee's remit cuts across existing CBC decision making and/or adds unnecessary layers to decision making	Medium	Medium	Governance workstream has been led by CBC and in collaboration with monitoring officers from other councils, with proposals tested and drawn from other well-	Medium	Low

			functioning committee arrangements e.g., the council's Joint Board with Bolsover and North East Derbyshire district councils.		
Resources for Vision Derbyshire prove insufficient to deliver the next phase of work	Medium	High	Set example to encourage all Derbyshire councils to make full financial commitment; ensure continued in-kind support from Chesterfield Borough Council members and officers to support and influence the work of the central programme team	Medium	Medium
Either Derbyshire County Council and/or Derby City Council make a request to government to put forward proposals for local government	High	Medium	Commitment to the Vision Derbyshire programme as a full member to maximise the prospects of it being a credible alternative to LGR;	High	Low

reorganisation in Derbyshire			through leadership by example influence other councils to support the programme; ensure that the programme's benefits and outcomes are understood and promoted.		
Government policy on local government reorganisation precludes non-structural reforms as basis for devolution	High	Medium	Use Vision Derbyshire work to re-iterate the case for change and proposition to Government	Medium	Medium

## **11.0 Implications for consideration – Community wellbeing**

11.1 One of Vision Derbyshire’s ambition areas is to ‘Build Proactive Communities’. A number of priorities have already been identified that strongly support community wellbeing. These include tackling homelessness and domestic violence and promoting independent living. As a member authority of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee, the council would be able to continue to lead and shape this work in order to maximise the value of it in improving community wellbeing for the residents of Chesterfield borough.

## **12.0 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills**

12.1 Two of Vision Derbyshire’s other ambition areas are to ‘Seize Innovation’ and ‘Establish Relentless Ambition’, ambitions that again align strongly with the council’s priority of ‘making Chesterfield a thriving borough’. Council officers have already been working as part of Vision Derbyshire officer groups on these ambition areas during earlier phases of the programme and the Leader of the Council has led on the ‘Seize Innovation’ ambition area. Continuing to engage fully with phase 4 of the programme places the council in a good position to ensure Vision Derbyshire contributes positively to achievement of the council’s number one priority and its ambitious Growth Strategy for the period 2019 through 2023.

## **13.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change**

13.1 There has been a strong focus on climate change throughout development of the Vision Derbyshire programme; climate change is the main theme running through the fourth and final ‘Live and Work Sustainably’ ambition area. Collaborating at a county level and beyond is particularly important and continuing to engage fully with the Vision Derbyshire programme will support the council to deliver on its own

climate change ambitions, as articulated in the council's climate change action plan.

- 13.2 As Vision Derbyshire projects come forward for consideration, the council will apply its newly developed Climate Change assessment tool to determine how each project will contribute towards realising a net zero position for the council by 2030 and the borough by 2050.

#### **14.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity**

- 14.1 As part of the process of developing policy and making decisions, the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee will in accordance with the public sector equality duty need to consider how best to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics (as defined by equalities legislation) and those who don't.

- 14.2 Equality Impact Assessments 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.

## Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	1044
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

## Document information

<b>Report authors</b>	
Huw Bowen – Chief Executive Donna Reddish – Service Director Corporate Services Michael Rich – Interim Director (projects)	
<b>Background documents</b>	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
N/A	
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix A	High level Vision Derbyshire phase 4 delivery plan
Appendix B	Proposed Governance Arrangements for Vision Derbyshire – Articles, Functions and Responsibilities and Procedure Rules
Appendix C	Flow charts for decision making