

For publication

Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee – Host Authority (LCO50L)

Meeting:	Leader
Date:	26 January 2022
Cabinet portfolio:	Leader
Directorate:	Corporate
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide an update on work taking place to establish the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee and to agree by Leader decision that Chesterfield Borough Council fulfils the role of temporary Host Authority.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That recent developments in relation to the establishment of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee are noted.
- 2.2 That Chesterfield Borough Council is appointed to the role of temporary Host Authority for the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee on the terms set out in the report.
- 2.3 That the potential for the accountable body arrangements for the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee and for a Derbyshire County Deal, should a deal be secured in the coming months, to overlap is noted.
- 2.4 That the proposals to review the temporary Host Authority arrangements in line with the criteria set out in the report are approved and that a further report on progress is presented in due course.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure there is a shared understanding of the latest position in relation to the establishment of the new Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee.
- 3.2 To enable Chesterfield Borough Council as temporary Host Authority to take forward proposals to establish the Joint Committee.
- 3.3 To ensure that any arrangements which are put in place are cognisant of the implications of new developments in respect of a potential County Deal for Derbyshire.
- 3.4 To ensure that the temporary Host Authority arrangements continue to be fit for purpose and are reviewed at the appropriate point in time as the Vision Derbyshire approach develops and further knowledge emerges of the potential for a Derbyshire County Deal.

4.0 Report details

- 4.1 Over the last two years, Councils across Derbyshire have developed a vision and case for change for non-structural reform of local government within the county. The case for change has looked beyond traditional partnerships to a new model of collaborative working focused on achieving the greatest public value for local people and communities.
- 4.2 The new model of collaboration – Vision Derbyshire – has progressed through a number of critical phases over the last two years. A report to Council in October 2021 provided a comprehensive update on progress and set out proposals to take forward Phase 4 of the approach. Phase 4 builds on the foundations and architecture developed through previous phases and prioritises the following key deliverables:
 - Progressing the delivery of agreed short and medium-term programmes of activity focused on achieving the four Vision Derbyshire strategic ambitions
 - Establishing a new joint Vision Derbyshire programme team, tasked with accelerating and supporting the implementation of delivery plans and proposals
 - Building on the success of previous phases, further extending and deepening the engagement and involvement of Elected Members, senior managers and partner organisations

- Establishing the new Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee, formalising the governance arrangements and decision-making processes for participating councils
 - Building a broader longer-term delivery programme
- 4.3 The establishment of governance arrangements through the Joint Committee formalises Vision Derbyshire as an approach with a number of councils – Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and High Peak Borough Council – now fully committed to taking forward the Phase 4 proposals alongside Chesterfield Borough Council.
- 4.4 The report to Council in October 2021 recognised that a host authority would be required to ensure the effective operation of the Joint Committee. Council delegated authority to the Leader of the Council to agree which Council would act as the Host Authority, to avoid any further delay in the commencement of operation of the Joint Committee.
- 4.5 Work to establish and stand up the new Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee has since been progressed and agreement of the host authority arrangements is now required to support implementation of Phase 4 of the approach. This action will need to align and dovetail with work that is also taking place to secure a County Deal for Derbyshire, details of which are likely to be published alongside the Government’s long awaited Levelling Up White Paper.
- 4.6 Host Authority
- 4.7 The Host Authority will be responsible for administration of meetings of the Joint Committee and will also hold funding on behalf of the Joint Committee and act as the employing authority for the Vision Derbyshire Programme Team. The Host Authority’s statutory officers will also act as the statutory officers for the Joint Committee.
- 4.8 Both Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council have offered to undertake the Host Authority role. To optimise capacity, build on current expertise and experience and showcase the excellent relationships that are currently in place at a cross party and county/district level, it is recommended that the two Councils share responsibility for taking forward Phase 4 of the approach, as follows:
- Chesterfield Borough Council to act as the Host Authority to deliver the functions as outlined in paragraph 4.7 above

- Derbyshire County Council to line manage the Programme Team and continue to support the strategic development of the Vision Derbyshire approach on a day-to-day basis

4.9 The Levelling Up White Paper is likely to formally announce several counties as first wave pathfinders for County Deals. Should a County Deal for Derbyshire be agreed it is likely that Derbyshire County Council would be given accountable body status.

4.10 This could result in a potential overlap between the accountable body responsibilities of the Host Authority in relation to the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee and of Derbyshire County Council in relation to a potential County Deal, should a Deal be secured in the coming months. As such it is recommended that the Host Authority arrangements outlined in this report be put in place on a temporary basis subject to review as follows:

- A) When the Levelling Up White paper is published, to deal with any specific requirements in the White Paper
- B) After a period of six months, so the member councils can review progress and the effectiveness of the host authority arrangements
- C) When the arrangements for a County Deal are determined

or whichever of these three criteria occurs first.

4.11 Once formal agreement of the hosting arrangements has been reached, there are two immediate actions for the Host Authority to undertake as follows:

- Establish, and arrange the first meeting of, the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee. This will be vital in maintaining and building momentum for implementation of Phase 4 of the approach
- Commence recruitment of the Vision Derbyshire Programme Team. The additional capacity that the programme team will bring will be crucial in progressing the key deliverables outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

5.0 Alternative options

5.1 Delay the establishment of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee until such time as the Levelling Up White Paper is published. Whilst this would provide some degree of certainty regarding the prospect of a Derbyshire County Deal and the implications of such a deal, it would severely delay progress in taking forward Phase 4 of the Vision Derbyshire approach.

5.2 Identify a single Council to act as the Host Authority. Chesterfield Borough Council could press the case to fulfil this exclusive role, however, the proposed option of sharing the Host Authority responsibilities between Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council is felt to represent the most practical way forward having regard to the current standing of Vision Derbyshire as a model of collaboration and the uncertainties presented by emerging Government policy agendas.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

6.1 The Host Authority will be responsible for the Vision Derbyshire Programme Team and Budget and as such will have responsibility for holding resources in respect of Vision Derbyshire programme funds, ensuring that all such arrangements accord with financial regulations. The Host Authority will also be responsible for drawing in funding from member Councils.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

7.1 The Terms of Reference of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee make provision for the establishment and appointment of a Host Authority to fulfil the roles outlined in paragraph 4.7 above.

7.2 In October 2021 Council approved the recommendation to delegate authority 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.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

8.1 As part of the approved Vision Derbyshire Phase 4 approach, a Programme Team is to be recruited to support and accelerate implementation. As interim host authority, Chesterfield Borough Council will be responsible for making appointments to the new roles in line with the council's standard recruitment and remuneration policies.

8.2 The Programme Team will report to the Service Director Corporate at Chesterfield Borough Council on matters relating to their employment, however for operational matters relating to the delivery of the Vision

Derbyshire Joint Committee work programme, the Team will report to the Assistant Director – Strategy and Policy at Derbyshire County Council.

8.3 As Host Authority there will be additional duties for the council's Service Director Corporate, the Monitoring Officer, Section 151 officer and Democratic Services staff. There is likely to be a need to fund some additional support and / or hours to ensure the effective operation of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee. Any such requirement will be met from the Vision Derbyshire programme budget.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan

9.1 Many of the short-term and medium-term programmes of activity that were signed off at Phase 4 of the Vision Derbyshire project complement and support delivery of the council's Council Plan 2019-23 and the council's priorities to 'make Chesterfield a thriving borough', 'to improve the quality of life for local people' and 'to deliver value for money services'.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

10.1 A climate change assessment is not needed as the report relates to an administrative decision rather than an issue of policy.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

11.1 An equality impact assessment is not needed as the report relates to an administrative decision rather than an issue of policy.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Lack of engagement from Some Derbyshire councils resulting in Vision Derbyshire being unable to deliver on its potential	M	H	Four authorities have already formally signed up to phase 4 of Vision Derbyshire, with a fifth expected to sign up late January / early February. 3no. other districts remain actively engage in one or more of the Vision Derbyshire	M	M

			<p>programmes of activity and the door remains open for them and other Derbyshire councils to sign up to being full members of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee through formal council resolution.</p> <p>While only member authorities will be able to vote on matters that come before the Joint Committee, the Leaders of other Derbyshire councils will continue to be invited to attend meetings engage in discussion.</p>		
Resources for Vision Derbyshire prove insufficient to deliver the next phase of work.	M	H	<p>The council sets the right example to encourage all Derbyshire councils to sign up to Phase 4 of Vision Derbyshire and commit financially to the running costs of the central programme team.</p> <p>The council to also continue to commit the time of members and officers to lead or support the delivery of the various Vision Derbyshire programmes of activity.</p>	M	L
Levelling Up White Paper confirms offer of County Deal for Derbyshire or proposes structural reform of local government as a precursor for future devolution of powers, freedoms and funding.	M	M	Reason for proposed temporary hosting arrangements pending publication of Levelling Up White Paper and / or announcement of County Deal for Derbyshire.	L	M

			Review period developed.		
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Decision information

Key decision number	N/A
Wards affected	All

Document information

Report author
Huw Bowen – Chief Executive Donna Reddish – Service Director Corporate
Background documents
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.
None
Appendices to the report
None