

Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee

Build Proactive Communities Delivery Programme

Date:	11 July 2022
Key ambition area:	Build Proactive Communities
Sponsors:	Cllr Garry Purdy – Derbyshire Dales District Council Andrew Stokes – High Peak Borough Council
For publication:	Yes

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To update the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee on progress made so far on the Build Proactive Communities thematic and outline development of the programme plan.
- 1.2 To seek approval to progress the five areas of work outlined in the report.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Note the appointment of Cllr Garry Purdy as Leader Sponsor for the Build Proactive Communities Theme
- 2.2 Agree to progressing the five projects identified in the report.
- 2.3 Nominate relevant officers to form an overarching group of strategic officers who can participate in work to further scope out how it is progressed.
- 2.4 Nominate relevant officers to participate in five sub-groups to take the work forward when appropriate.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 Progressing this theme is critical for the Vision Derbyshire approach to explore opportunities for improving local service delivery and in supporting local communities to thrive.

4.0 Report details

Background

- 4.1 In March 2020 three pilot groups, were initiated during Phase 2 of the Vision Derbyshire programme. These pilots, focused on specific topics, developed and iterated a new way of working between the Vision Derbyshire councils, whilst also demonstrating how outcomes can be improved for people and places in Derbyshire.
- 4.2 The original scope set by the Vision Derbyshire Steering Group was to create a specific pilot to aid community recovery. Through a series of pilot sessions, the Steering Group agreed to focus on investigating ways in which Vision Derbyshire councils and communities could co-develop services or contracts to better utilise community capacity and improve outcomes for local people.
- 4.3 During Covid-19, councils also collectively worked together to house homeless people across Derbyshire. The Community Recovery Pilot collaborated on supporting the homeless or those at risk of homelessness and built on the progress and focus within this area caused by significant efforts to support this population during the first Covid-19 lockdown.
- 4.4 Scoping work undertaken through Phase 3 has identified additional areas of work to be brought forward for the Phase 4 accelerated delivery programme. These key areas of work are outlined across sections 4.5 – 4.26 below.
- 4.5 Recently a vacancy has arisen in the programme for a Leader Sponsor for the Build Proactive Communities theme. Cllr Garry Purdy, Leader for Derbyshire Dales District Council has agreed to Sponsor this theme. Cllr Purdy will remain sponsor of the work regarding Climate Change Supplementary Planning Guidance and will continue to champion this work until its conclusion.

Project One: Domestic Abuse

- 4.5 Domestic abuse is a complex social issue people access a range of statutory & voluntary sector provision across different tiers and systems of local government. There is an opportunity through Vision Derbyshire to build provision which provides a comprehensive and consistent response to supporting victims and addressing issues relating to domestic abuse across the county.
- 4.6 This means designing and developing a single approach for needs assessment, resourcing and delivery, and creating a single customer centred approach for advice and support services. This will connect statutory and voluntary sector provision and a develop a single needs assessment to enable better understanding of the issues relating to domestic violence. There are also significant opportunities to look at joint commissioning approaches to drive culture change across the organisations and improve safeguarding outcomes for victims.

- 4.7 Tackling violence against women and girls has also become a key priority for Government, and the Home Office has published a strategy in July 2021 setting out their plans. The strategy outlines an ambition to increase support for victims and survivors, increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice, reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls in the long term and bring forward a radical programme of change in the whole system's response to these crimes. Government also indicated that this strategy would be followed by a dedicated and complementary domestic abuse strategy, yet to be published.

Project Two: Covid 19 Community Impact Assessment

- 4.8 A significant amount of collaboration, effort and funding has been provided to support vulnerable residents across Derbyshire communities through the pandemic. There are opportunities to build on the improved partnership working and goodwill created between sectors to seek new ways of working that might not have previously been possible.
- 4.9 There have been improved networking and relationships between organisations at a county and local level, including:
- Increased trust amongst partners and across sectors, particularly the voluntary and community sector
 - Building on the response and using networks to tackle other social issues in collaboration
 - Sharing and using insights from at risk, hard-to-reach and vulnerable communities.
- 4.10 With such a huge challenge like Covid 19 recovery it is important to understand the nature of the impact because this can support identifying solutions to tackle any issues. It is recommended that a comprehensive Community Impact Assessment can support the prioritisation of needs ensure a focus for recovery efforts. It is important that the Councils can outline who has been most affected and how the public sector can best support.
- 4.11 This impact assessment can then form the basis for supporting the development of a shared strategy, to develop a shared vision and drive a more consistent, collaborative approach across Vision Derbyshire councils to improve community outcomes, providing a strategic focus for the coming years.

Project Three: Voluntary and Community Sector support

- 4.12 The way that Derbyshire Councils support voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations is not consistent and joined up. Each council has different ways in which it works with, supports, and funds the sector. If councils could collectively

agree a set of principles for how they will work with the voluntary and community sector, it would support the sector to maximise its potential and be more resilient.

- 4.13 The current Derbyshire Compact was designed to provide a shared partnership framework to support Derbyshire councils in their work with the VCS. This Compact however, was developed and agreed in 2003 and consideration is needed on whether this document is still fit for purpose and what alternative arrangements could be established, reflecting the current public sector landscape and its relationship with the sector.
- 4.14 Many Derbyshire councils also fund local VCS infrastructure support organisations, such as CVS's and volunteer centres. These organisations can provide the sector with a single front door to offer vital support to the VCS as and when needs arise. By knowing the local area and local needs, local infrastructure organisations can help the VCS to attract funding, operate good governance, recruit and manage volunteers, develop new local provision and influence the public sector.
- 4.15 Building on the fantastic effort from the sector to support people during Covid and the work that the County Council and CCGs have done on aligning their frameworks for commissioning infrastructure providers, this project would look at a shared infrastructure framework with the District and Borough Councils, accommodating for their needs and supporting their priorities. This work could provide the foundations for a wider joined up approach to VCS funding and a wider approach to building community capacity and empowering local people.
- 4.16 Derbyshire County Council recently took a report to Derbyshire Chief Executives on their current review of funding to the sector. There was broad support from Chief Executives in attendance to explore collaborative work on VCS provision and support, including Derby and Derbyshire CCG.

Project Four: Independent Living / Low level support

- 4.17 There is a recognition that many people require additional support to remain in and live independently in their own homes.
- 4.18 The Council has been funding a range of legacy low-level support services for many years. The current Older People's Independent Living service is delivered by District and Borough Councils and a VCS provider. Eligibility for these services are not based on assessed need, are not sufficiently targeted and are not a statutory duty for Adult Social Care to fund or provide.
- 4.19 Contract monitoring data suggests that many of the current recipients of this service are social housing tenants and have been receiving their support for many years. Recent data from a desktop review in one district and borough area suggests that a

significant proportion of current users of the service have no or very low support needs and a very small proportion do have a need, but that this need is still unlikely to meet the Care Act eligibility criteria.

- 4.20 The County Council took a report to Derbyshire Chief Executives in October 2021 on their proposals to review current funding and provision of the Older People’s Independent Living Service. There was broad support from Chief Executives in attendance to explore collaborative work through Vision Derbyshire and the County Council has since received Cabinet approval in March 2022 to consult on cessation of the current service offer and to bring a report back to Cabinet with the results and future proposals in November 2022.
- 4.21 The Consultation will seek the views of people currently receiving this service with a view to ending this low-level provision by March 2024 or earlier if possible. The intention is to remodel future service provision into a short-term targeted offer that will be more widely accessible and will maximise people’s independence and help them to remain living at home for longer.
- 4.22 In line with this, there is a pressing need for County Council and District and Borough Councils to work together to review the results of the consultation and develop a robust Equality Impact Analysis to inform mitigations for the proposed cessation of the existing service and to inform the specification for the new proposed targeted, needs based offer.

Project Five: Walk Derbyshire

- 4.23 Derbyshire has a strong infrastructure of walking groups that has been established over the last 20 years as a partnership between the County, District and Borough Councils. However, the past two years of the pandemic has highlighted the importance of walking for individuals within their own neighbourhoods and its potential for tackling health inactivity and inequality.
- 4.24 To fully realise the opportunities presented by walking in terms of health, climate change, town centre regeneration etc there needs to be a whole system approach. This involves County and District/Borough Councils working together, with the Police, Health and Voluntary Sector to create walkable communities which are safe and accessible and encourage both social and nature connectedness.
- 4.25 Derbyshire County Council Public Health and Active Derbyshire are funding ‘Walk Derbyshire’ which will take this whole system approach and deliver marketing, workforce development (for the paid and non paid workforce) and pilot opportunities to bring together the system partners with local communities to increase walking opportunities, remove mental and physical barriers.

- 4.26 ‘Walk Derbyshire’ has the potential to join up partners across the whole county and make a real impact on residents lives by making walk a part of everybody’s life.

Governance and scoping the work

- 4.27 The Build Proactive Communities theme has a wide brief and, because of this, there is no natural or dedicated group of officers which can take forward all the varied projects and areas of work. It is therefore recommended that a strategic, overarching group of senior officers is necessary to support the management and co-ordination across all projects and programmes within the Build Proactive Communities theme. Without this there is a risk that the work becomes a set of disparate projects. A meeting of this group first may be necessary to support the scoping out the work as described in the report above. This would also need to understand how appropriate elected members can be involved in the development of work.
- 4.28 However, to bring the relevant expertise around the table to drive forward the particular pieces of work, it is vital that Vision Derbyshire Councils take these five projects back to their own authorities and consider who put forward relevant officers to engage with the work.

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 None

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 6.1 None. Any costs arising from the projects within the theme will be either met through council budgets or subject to business cases and/or additional reports brought to the Joint Committee.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

- 7.1 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. Discussing and agreeing matters relating to the delivery programme therefore falls under the decision making remit of the Joint Committee.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

- 8.1 None

9.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

9.0 None

10.0 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 early programme development rather than an issue of policy.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

11.1 None. Any risk issues which may arise through the further development of projects and the whole programme will be dealt with on a case by case basis and through the governance structure and formal Joint Committee process.

Document information

Report author
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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