

Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee County Deal Update and Vision Derbyshire Alignment

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| Date: | 11 July 2022 |
| Key ambition area: | Whole Programme |
| Sponsors: | Emma Alexander |
| For publication: | Yes |

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To update the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee on progress in developing the County Deal for Derbyshire and Derby and Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.
- 1.2 To outline proposals, and to confirm arrangements for, the alignment of the Vision Derbyshire approach with the County Deal to support further developments and emerging activity.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Note the progress made on the development of a County Deal for Derbyshire and Derby and Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.
- 2.2 Agree the alignment of the Vision Derbyshire approach to devolution deal activity and to confirm leads to support further developments and emerging activity over the forthcoming period.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure that the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee is aware of developments and progress that has taken place on the development of a County Deal for Derbyshire and Derby and Nottinghamshire and Nottingham since its last meeting in April 2022.
- 3.2 To ensure Derbyshire is well placed to support the development of devolution proposals and ongoing negotiations with Government where appropriate and

to enable District and Borough Councils in Derbyshire to meaningfully engage and participate in ongoing developments.

4.0 Report details

Background

- 4.1 On 2 February 2022, the Government published its long-awaited Levelling Up White Paper, setting out plans to transform the UK by spreading opportunity and prosperity to all. The White Papers outlines how Government will empower local leadership and extend and deepen devolution across England by:
- Setting out the UK Government's new devolution framework to provide greater clarity on the devolution offer across England; and
 - Seeking to legislate to establish a new form of combined authority model to be made up of upper-tier local authorities only.
- 4.2 The White Paper also outlines proposals to secure an increased number of devolution arrangements across England, including devolution deals across several county areas. Nine areas were invited to agree new County Deals with the aim of agreeing 'a number of these deals' by Autumn 2022. Both Derbyshire and Derby and Nottinghamshire and Nottingham were invited to participate as County Deal pathfinders providing a unique opportunity to secure a devolution deal for the region.
- 4.3 At its meeting on 4 April 2022, the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee received a presentation on the Levelling Up White Paper and an update on progress on the development of a County Deal for Derbyshire and Derby and Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. The presentation outlined the potential benefits of securing a Deal following a sustained level of under investment in the region and the importance of ensuring the area was considered in the first 'wave' of pathfinders to receive approval in Autumn 2022. The presentation also set out intentions to explore a Level 3 Deal as set out in the Government's devolution framework through a potential County Combined Authority with an elected mayor for the region.
- 4.4 Further to being named in the White Paper as a pathfinder for a County Deal the four upper tier Councils in Derbyshire/Derby and Nottinghamshire/ Nottingham have had a number of positive discussions with Government to explore a Level 3 Deal as set out in the Government's devolution framework and outline initial deal ambitions alongside any greater powers and flexibilities, much of which forms part of the Vision Derbyshire delivery programme.

Current position

- 4.5 Proposals set out in the Levelling Up White Paper are now being formalised through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, published on 11 May 2022. The Bill contains primary legislation which will provide a legislative framework to establish a new type of combined authority, a 'County Combined Authority'. This primary legislation is anticipated to receive Royal Assent in May 2023.
- 4.6 The excellent collaborative work and intentions demonstrated by the Vision Derbyshire approach between the county, district and borough councils, is integral to Derbyshire's devolution ambitions, and supports wider discussions across the region. Government has been clear that whilst deals will be negotiated with upper tier councils, they expect meaningful engagement with all councils. Local partners understand the inclusion of district and borough councils in the development of proposals is vital to its success.

Alignment to Vision Derbyshire approach

- 4.7 In Derbyshire, the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee and associated structures such as the Vision Derbyshire Chief Executives Group and the Vision Derbyshire Leaders and Chief Executives Group will play a crucial role in supporting the development of the Deal and subsequent phases of delivery, ensuring that District and Borough Councils are fully engaged in the devolution programme and are able to drive forward collaborative work across a range of priorities linked to the Vision Derbyshire delivery programme where appropriate.
- 4.8 Four overarching workstreams to support the development of the Deal have been identified as follows:
- Negotiating the deal
 - Agreeing a governance framework
 - Communications and engagement
 - Organisational design of a future combined authority
- 4.9 Based on established devolution deals, it is anticipated that Government negotiations will touch on areas which are aligned to the four original Vision Derbyshire thematic areas. The four upper-tier councils have also put forward ambitions for a deal in areas which currently sit outside of the Government's devolution framework. The workstream priority areas and negotiation themes outlined below have been aligned to the Vision Derbyshire programme of work and Vision Derbyshire lead elected members and officers have been assigned to relevant areas where appropriate to the negotiation areas.

| Devolution Deal - Overarching Workstream Priorities | |
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| Workstream | Leads |
| Communications | Cllr Anthony McKeown – Leader, High Peak BC Huw Bowen – Chief Executive, Chesterfield BC Julie Odams – Assistant Director of Communications, Derbyshire CC |
| Negotiations | Various see table below |
| CA Operating Model | Chris Henning – Executive Director Place, Derbyshire CC Additional representatives to be identified |
| Governance | Helen Barrington – Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Derbyshire CC James McLaughlin - Director of Corporate & Customer Services and Monitoring Officer, Derbyshire Dales DC |

| Thematic Priorities Leads | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Negotiation Theme | Vision Derbyshire Themes | Leads |
| Standard devolution deals text | All | Cllr Barry Lewis – Leader, Derbyshire CC Emma Alexander – Managing Director, Derbyshire CC |
| Economic development | Seize Innovation | Cllr Tricia Gilby – Leader, Chesterfield BC Emma Alexander – Managing Director, Derbyshire CC Joe Battye – Director of Economy and Regeneration, Derbyshire CC |
| Transport | Live and Work Sustainably | Cllr Anthony McKeown – Leader, High Peak BC TBC Joe Battye – Director of Economy and Regeneration, Derbyshire CC |
| Skills | Establish Relentless Ambition | Cllr Barry Lewis – Leader, Derbyshire CC Paul Wilson – Chief Executive, Derbyshire Dales DC Andrew Marsh – Head of Employment and Skills, Derbyshire CC |
| Housing and Planning | Seize Innovation | Cllr Tricia Gilby – Leader, Chesterfield BC Emma Alexander – Managing Director, Derbyshire CC Joe Battye – Director of Economy and Regeneration, Derbyshire CC |

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|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Net Zero | Live and Work Sustainably | Cllr Kevin Buttery – Leader, Amber Valley DC Lee Hickin - Director of Operations and Head of Paid Service, North East Derbyshire DC Claire Brailsford – Director of Environment and Transport, Derbyshire CC |
| Follow up on asks ‘beyond the framework’ | Build Proactive Communities | Cllr Garry Purdy – Leader, Derbyshire Dales DC Andrew Stokes – Chief Executive, High Peak BC Various officer leads (NB for actions not covered by other themes) |

- 4.10 The Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee are asked to consider and approve proposals to align current activity with the emerging County Deal and to confirm assigned Leads to support the progression of proposals as outlined above.

Resources

- 4.11 The Vision Derbyshire programme resource, when in place, will work to ensure there is alignment between the Vision Derbyshire work programme and the content of the County Deal.

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 Do not align to Vision Derbyshire – A decision could be taken to not align the Vision Derbyshire approach and delivery programme to the County Deal. This option has been rejected, as a central principle of Vision Derbyshire was always to position Derbyshire to move at pace and progress and secure a devolution deal. Correspondence from Government reference innovative Vision Derbyshire proposals as a reason for the county being considered in the first wave of deals.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 6.1 There are no implications for the Vision Derbyshire Programme budget linked to this report.

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, which will need to align with any devolution of powers from Government, 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 The Vision Derbyshire Programme Team, when in place, will be ideally positioned to support with the work required for the development and implementation of the deal. As outlined in the report, Vision Derbyshire ambitions align to many of the devolution deal ambitions and working across County Deal and Vision Derbyshire will be crucial to the successful delivery of both over forthcoming months.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

- 9.1 Funding for activity relating to climate change and in particular net zero ambitions is a key element and focus of a devolution deal as is the transfer of powers and flexibilities from central government to support the delivery of identified actions. A successful deal and funding from central government would be crucial in delivering the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy in meeting Derbyshire's agreed climate change priorities and targets.

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 an administrative decision rather than an issue of policy.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

| Description of the Risk | Impact | Likelihood | Mitigating Action | Impact | Likelihood |
|-------------------------|--------|------------|---|--------|------------|
| Insufficient resource | Medium | Medium | Should additional resources be required this would be the subject of a full business case to the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee with agreement on the approach to adequately resource identified activity. | Medium | Low |

Document information

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| Report author |
| Sarah Eaton |
| 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 |