

**UNIVERSITY OF DERBY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP  
AGREEMENT (SPA) WITH CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH  
COUNCIL: AUGUST 2023**



**1. PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL**

This Strategic Partnership between Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) and the University of Derby (UoD) provides the framework for optimising the opportunities for collaborative working and in so doing it builds on the existing relationship between the two organisations.

In entering into this more formal agreement, Chesterfield Borough Council will be aligning with Derbyshire's only university, which is ranked between 601 & 800 in the Times Higher Education's World University Rankings 2022. UoD has secured multiple awards and prides itself on its applied learning model, which ensures that all of its students secure relevant industry experience alongside their academic studies.

In turn, the University of Derby will be building its engagement with Chesterfield Borough Council, which serves 105,000 Derbyshire residents across the borough, delivering a wide range of public services, providing place leadership and working with partner organisations to attract investment and growth across the borough.

This three-year agreement is intended to develop a long-term collaboration to deliver benefits for the communities of both organisations through specific targeted joint efforts that leverage the resources and assets of each partner. The joint ambitions are to:

- To establish Chesterfield as a University town delivering higher level skills and education for our people and employers
- To work jointly, with business partners, education providers and the public sector to deliver world leading research that drives innovation, provide world class facilities to meet the needs of our community and establish a platform to help our entrepreneurs reach their potential
- To use our combined assets, within community partnerships across Chesterfield, to help to raise people's aspirations through delivering effective core skills, careers information, support, and advice.

The University's Strategic Partnership Agreements (SPAs) are exclusively by invitation only.

**2. FOCUS OF THIS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

The focus of this partnership agreement between the UoD & Chesterfield Borough Council is presented in the following 5 sections.

**2.1 HEALTH, WELLBEING, COMMUNITY, SKILLS AND RESILIENCE**

UoD and CBC to collaborate to maximise the outcomes for the borough through health and care partnership structures including the Integrated Care Partnership.
UoD and CBC to collaborate on the promotion of social value through individual and joint sourcing and procurement, in order to maximise the benefits for local communities and businesses from public spend in the area.
UoD to support CBC in work intended to deliver thriving local communities, especially where it aligns with UoD's civic agenda.
CBC and UoD to promote the take-up and access to existing and new higher level skills opportunities for Chesterfield communities, driving up skills and attainment levels, particularly in deprived wards.
UoD and CBC to collaborate on joint projects to improve retention of UoD graduates within the area.
UoD and CBC to work together to strengthen the links with the community and voluntary sector, to raise aspirations and resilience of Chesterfield communities.

## 2.2 INNOVATION & RESEARCH

UoD and CBC to work together on collaborative R&D projects that support UoD ambitions to grow and evolve their activities and operations and maximise the strengths of the local Chesterfield business and skills base, with jointly identified external funding opportunities where required.
CBC to identify opportunities and support UoD's knowledge exchange work, including facilitating third party discussions.

## 2.3 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & CURRICULUM DESIGN

CBC and UoD to support aligned aims in various types of training, the provision of authentic experiential learning activities, the success of learners in engaging within these activities and promotion of roles requiring higher level skills within the area.
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## 2.4 BRAND PROFILE & AWARENESS

CBC and UoD to agree to align and support the shared long-term ambition for Chesterfield to become a University Town, with this being publicly recognised by employers, investors, prospective students and local communities as an asset for the area.
CBC and UoD to promote the partnership at events, as well as via newsletters, other publications and social media posts. However, neither Party shall use the other Party's name or brand without first obtaining the written consent of the other Party. All requests should include details of the intended use, format, dates and a proof to approve of the use before publishing.
CBC and UoD to work together to build the profile of both organisations and the partnerships between them at a local, regional and national level to employers, investors, and prospective and current students.

## 2.5 ASSETS AND INVESTMENT

CBC to support UoD in developing a commercial offer for the provision of Continuous Professional Development activities at its Chesterfield base.
UoD and CBC to consider the promotion and cross-brokering of facilities and assets when considering the location for future course, services, commercial offers etc.
UoD to support CBC in securing inward investment in the borough.

CBC to support UoD by providing information on the town’s attractions, accommodation, business support etc. that can be used by UoD to pitch for new courses and services to be delivered from Chesterfield.

**3. OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

On entering into this Strategic Partnership Agreement senior colleagues from both organisations will meet and agree a series of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), broken down by quarter, for each target outcome referenced in sections 2.1 to 2.5. These will be captured in a delivery plan that will be kept under regular review. Outputs included in the delivery plan will be amended and/or replaced where colleagues identify more appropriate ways of delivering the outcomes set out in this agreement.

These colleagues will then attend quarterly Performance Review Meetings that will be co-chaired by a senior representative of each organisation.

An end-of-year Evaluation Report will be produced, which will inform a decision by both organisations, as to whether the two parties should enter into negotiations for a further 3-year Strategic Partnership Agreement.

**4. COMMENCEMENT**

This strategic partnership agreement will commence upon signature of both parties (**Commencement Date**) and will terminate automatically without notice on the third anniversary of the Commencement Date. Either party may terminate this agreement on 30 days’ notice to the other party, such notice to be given in any of the periods beginning on each anniversary of the Commencement Date and ending 60 days after each anniversary of the Commencement Date.

To be signed for and on behalf of University of Derby	To be signed for and on behalf of Chesterfield Borough Council
Signature:	Signature:
Name:	Name:
Position in Organisation:	Position in Organisation:
Date:	Date: