

## **Analysis of Public Engagement Results for the Proposed Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority**

### **Introduction**

This appendix provides an overview of the engagement process and sets out a detailed analysis of consultation results, including initial responses from the Joint Committee to the issues raised, where appropriate.

The D2 Joint Committee recognises this is a complex proposal but believes that securing the genuine input of local residents, businesses and other stakeholders is critical to ensuring the final combined authority proposal is fit for purpose and has as much local support as possible.

First of all, the D2 Joint Committee would like to thank the 734 people who responded on line and the 24 who made direct contact by phone, visit, letter or e-mail. The volume of this response is very encouraging and indicates the local level of interest in this proposal. Headline results show that two thirds of all respondents support the combined authority proposal which gives the Joint Committee a strong mandate to go forward.

One person gave this advice about the way to proceed:

*“Working together can only be a good thing... the principles of working together should slowly evolve .....there should be no fear of having to get things right from the start.”*

In this spirit of collaboration and learning, this appendix summarises the consultation responses and acknowledges where issues/ concerns were raised; it lays the ground for refinement to the proposals and for future engagement and cooperation in developing the D2 Combined Authority.

The Derby and Derbyshire local authorities have a strong history of partnership working and in engaging with stakeholders in a meaningful and genuine way. As work on the governance review progressed, proposals were shaped and enhanced through dialogue and challenge by key stakeholders; this is perhaps one of the key reasons for achieving such a high level of response.

## **Approach and Methodology**

The D2 Joint Committee has welcomed individual responses and reflections from its constituent member authorities as part of the consultation process. Derby City Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and Chesterfield Borough Council all wrote to the Chair of the Joint Committee to express support and encourage continuing development of the detailed proposals in key areas, particularly in relation to the overlap with Sheffield City Region.

All ten local authorities have ensured good communication with staff, partners, employers and agencies across the county. Initially the sharing of information was informal but as the submission took shape, a formal process was planned and a website built, acting as the central point for information and participation.

A stakeholder 'map' of different interest groups was developed; each authority used existing, internal systems to contact the staff and elected members and external networks to reach key stakeholders.

The website was specifically developed to ensure information was presented in a way that was easily identifiable and accessible to the different stakeholder groups and gave options as to how much detail to access. All the windows led to the same questionnaire which had been designed to help evidence the statutory tests for a combined authority. Respondents were encouraged to make direct contact with named individuals or to seek help at a local library if they needed paper based information.

The website was advertised through magazines and social media; members of the two citizens' panels (Derbyshire county and Derby city) were individually invited to participate.

The main stakeholder groups targeted for consultation were:

- Local residents across the county and city
- Elected members from all D2 local authorities
- Members of key county and city partnerships (e.g. regeneration/ transport)
- Organisations with an interest in rural concerns
- Private sector organisations and business - including the creative industries
- Economic networks and umbrella organisations
- Transport providers and users
- Tourist organisations
- Housing providers and developers
- Further and higher education providers, secondary schools and academies
- Jobcentre plus
- Voluntary sector organisations and umbrella groups
- Neighbouring local authorities and combined authorities

- Members of Parliament for D2 and N2

The consultation period was open from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015 which was in line with guidance from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (i.e. minimum of three weeks).

It is fully recognised that DCLG will undertake a statutory consultation process for this proposal over a two month period. Together with the work undertaken by the Joint Committee (and the level of response) this is considered to be a significant period of time to test the level of local support.

Throughout the governance review process, the Joint Committee has worked closely with the D2N2 Local Economic Partnership (LEP) and the N2 Joint Committee; at national level, the Committee has sought regular guidance and feedback from the Department for Communities and Local Government, Department for Transport and department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

During this time, substantive discussion and sharing of ideas has also taken place with the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, the Local Transport Board (which includes the Highways Agency) and the Homes and Communities Agency; more latterly, this has also included local Members of Parliament.

As a result of existing relationships between some D2 authorities, discussion with neighbouring combined authorities (Sheffield City Region and Greater Manchester) has also taken place throughout the governance review. Adjacent CAs and local councils were invited specifically to participate in the consultation exercise by the Chief Executive of Derbyshire County Council.

## **Headlines**

A total of 734 people responded to the on line questionnaire and a further 24 made direct contact by phone, face to face discussion, letter or e-mail

The 'survey monkey' tool was used to create the questionnaire because of the ease with which it could provide headline results. However, this tool allows users to skip questions although 734 people used the questionnaire, not all the questions were answered by everyone. In analysing the responses, care has been taken to identify the size of response for each question.

The questionnaire consisted of eight questions, the first was included to help categorise respondent type; six further questions were designed to specifically test the level of support for the D2 Combined Authority; and the final question provided the opportunity for qualitative comments or suggestions. Over 206 people provided comments, some in great detail; many of these were suggestions for things to be

considered in the future or statements about the conditions which they thought should apply to a future, wider combined authority.

Out of the total 758 responses, 30 commented that the consultation process and proposal was difficult to understand, that certain information such as savings and employment was not evident, and that the consultation period itself was too short.

## Detailed Response – by Individual Question

The sections that follow provide a detailed analysis of the questionnaire responses. Relevant, qualitative information from question 8 has been attached to each response to provide more detailed understanding of the headline figures.

### Question 1: Who are you?

The purpose of this question was to identify the key stakeholder groups from which respondents came; the Joint Committee was particularly interested to understand that the process had captured the views of local businesses, residents, elected members and parish councils.

A total of 702 respondents answered this question, although some people (37) took the opportunity to use the ‘other’ box to say they represented more than one interest.

A list of the organisations which responded to the consultation is provided at the end of this report.

Are you answering this questionnaire as: (please look at all of the options before selecting one):		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
A resident of Derby or Derbyshire	52.1%	366
A resident of another area	0.3%	2
A councillor, MP or MEP	1.6%	11
The owner of a business or local employer	2.6%	18
A representative of an education or training provider	0.6%	4
A trade union representative	0.4%	3
A representative of the transport sector	0.1%	1
A representative of a voluntary or community organisation	2.0%	14
A representative of the housing sector	0.6%	4
A representative of a public sector body (e.g. health, police, government department)	1.4%	10
An employee of one of the ten councils	38.3%	269
Other (please specify)		37
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>702</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>32</b>

## Question 2: Is a combined authority the best option for Derby and Derbyshire?

This question was asked to test the level of support for the review's recommendation to create a combined authority and had regard to the statutory test to demonstrate that the proposal would result in effective and convenient local government.

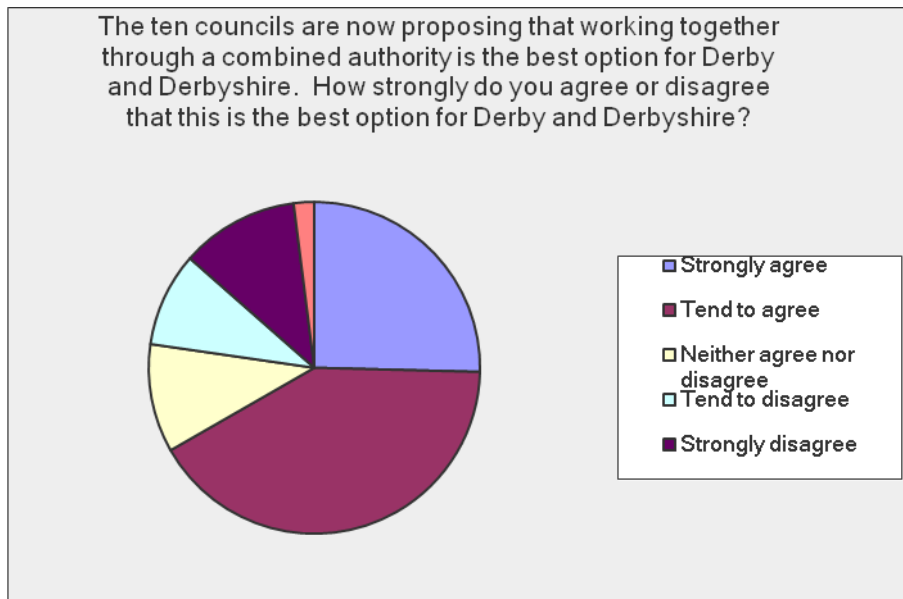
The table and pie chart below show the detailed question and the response rate. Overall, 66.7% either strongly or tended to agree that the proposed combined authority was the best option for D2. When the 'neutral' score is added, the overall total is 78.3%

*The ten Derby and Derbyshire councils have explored four options for working more closely together to create new jobs and investment, develop the skills of the local workforce help support more housing, improve transport and speed up decision-making. These four options are:*

- 1. Continuing with the current remit and scope of the Joint Committee*
- 2. Extending the scope of the Joint Committee to include other areas of work*
- 3. Setting up an economic prosperity board (not including transport)*
- 4. Setting up a combined authority (including transport)*

*Having looked at the options, the ten councils are now proposing that working together through a combined authority is the best option for Derby and Derbyshire. How strongly do you agree or disagree that a combined authority is the best option for Derby and Derbyshire? (Please select one option only)*

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	25.4%	163
Tend to agree	41.3%	265
Neither agree nor disagree	10.6%	68
Tend to disagree	9.2%	59
Strongly disagree	11.5%	74
Don't know	2.0%	13
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>642</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>92</b>



Analysis of relevant qualitative responses from question eight identified that of those in favour of the proposal, the main reasons were that it would;

- cut costs
- reduce waste and duplication
- hopefully, direct savings to frontline services
- encourage investment and prosperity
- be a strong, strategic body
- be in a position to negotiate with the neighbouring combined authorities in Sheffield, Manchester and Nottingham on an equal footing.

In a written response, the Chief Executive of **Nottinghamshire County Council** gives strong support to the proposal and comments on how closely the N2 and D2 authorities have worked together. Looking ahead, he says,

*“Nottinghamshire County Council recognises there are many overlapping and interdependent economies within the overall geography of Nottinghamshire and that many of our businesses and workers are reliant on supply chains, contracts and jobs in Derbyshire. We will therefore work closely with the new Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority on issues that are cross-border, exploring how to deliver greater impact and economies of scale where possible. We have particular shared interests in the economic growth of districts along both sides of the M1 and A52 corridors and around the new HS2 East Midlands Hub and will ensure we have effective governance and working practice in place to address these major opportunities. Similarly, we will lead a coherent approach and one that is consistent with the Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority in terms of our relationships with the Sheffield City Region”.*

.....

Similarly the Leader of **Nottingham City Council**, says the City Council offers its strong support and appreciation for the close working that has taken place on developing the proposals.

*“Given our proximity and the similarity of the challenges and advantages that D2 and N2 face, it is no surprise to see some read across between D2 and N2’s plans for their CAs. Your aims to support businesses and people, to shape place, and finance the future are key recognitions of what is needed to drive forward D2’s economy. It is clear to me, however, that D2 and N2’s distinctiveness are also best served - at the present time - by twin CAs and not a single CA coterminous with D2N2 LEP.*

*With D2 and N2’s proposed CAs working closely together, we can keep local decisions at the local level whilst enhancing D2N2’s governance, and improving on existing arrangements. I am pleased to see section 1.9 of D2’s governance review setting out the similarities that unite D2N2 LEP, while acknowledging the unique benefits that two, twin CAs can bring. D2 and N2 require a number of distinct, targeted interventions that are best dealt with at the local level.”*

.....

Eight **members of parliament** for Derby and Derbyshire constituencies have shared their views, either through discussion or letter; seven of them indicated their clear support for the proposal and one queried the constitutional arrangements. Through discussion, the issues explored with the MPs included:

- the prioritisation processes for D2 projects to ensure transparent decision making, particularly around the rural vs urban distribution
- parity between members of the combined authority so that all play an equal part in decision making
- tackling congestion and delivering integrated transport solutions
- delivering mixed markets of carefully planned, good quality housing – including opportunities for social housing
- the relationships between the two proposed combined authorities and the D2N2 LEP
- the support that has been given by government departments during the review process
- the need for ongoing dialogue with MPs as the combined authority develops and projects come forward

.....

Recent detailed discussions with the **D2N2 Local Economic Partnership (LEP)** Executive and D2N2LEP Board have confirmed its strong support to create a D2 Combined Authority, alongside a complementary Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Combined Authority. This was strongly supported at the LEP Board meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

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#### **Qualitative Comments:**

**The Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner 's Office and the Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust** all support the proposal and would seek to collaborate closely with the new structure.

The Fire Service states; *“Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) fully supports the proposal for a Derbyshire Combined Authority. These proposals would provide a simplified and elegant solution to the current situation, ensuring there is a single list of priorities that DFRS can feed into and support, removing confusion and complexity. This will also provide clarity and certainty regarding our future strategic planning process.”*

.....

The **Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP)** has confirmed strong support for the Combined Authority. The DEP views its key role as providing expertise and strategic business advice to the Combined Authority Board in a structured way. The Partnership is keen to maintain dialogue with the current D2 Joint Committee over the coming months to refine its terms of reference and membership to create a wider, stronger and more representative forum for third and private sector stakeholders. The DEP would also like to ensure closer working ties with the Derby Renaissance Board and is looking for stronger collaboration in the future.

The DEP members share a view that the proposed ‘stakeholder forum’ is key to ensuring balanced governance within the combined authority. The Board believes that the local authorities should be represented on the DEP Board but should not dominate it; to ensure robust communication and relationship management, it has been proposed the chair of the DEP should attend the Combined Authority and that, reciprocally, a representative from the CA board should attend the DEP Board.

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The **Derby Renaissance Board (DRB)** has confirmed its support for the proposed Combined Authority.

*“The Board plays a key role in giving Derby City Council and our regeneration partners strategic advice about our interventions in the local economy, including taking ownership of our local economic assessment and our Economic Strategy.*

*The DRB intends to continue in its current form as it sees meaningful ways in which it can continue to maintain and monitor the highest economic interests of our city. However, the DRB would like to develop closer working ties with the Derbyshire Economic Partnership alongside the Joint Committee and the proposed Combined Authority.*

*The Chair and Chief Executive of D2N2 already attend DRB meetings, as member and observer respectively. The DRB would be pleased to invite the*



*Chair of DEP and a representative of the Joint Committee to attend our meetings in an observer capacity”.*

.....

**Marketing Derby** welcomes a combined authority which would facilitate the drawing down of powers and funding from Whitehall and recommends that a Derby City representative be involved in the DEP.

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**Ripley Town Council** wrote to say it welcomes the proposal and the potential benefits to Derbyshire. The Council goes on to identify issues around the relationship of the D2 CA with neighbourhood planning.

.....

The four main **Derbyshire based Clinical Commissioning Groups** also welcome the CA and hope it will bring even greater coordinated focus for the residents of Derbyshire adding,

*“We completely recognise that the NHS is organised on a different basis with populations registered with our GP practices rather than residents and hope that we can continue to work together flexibly to ensure these differences do not get in the way of what is right for all of our citizens”*

.....

The **Sheffield City Region Combined Authority** (SCR) is supportive of the proposals for Derby and Derbyshire and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. However, SCR reserves its final position until invited to respond to statutory consultation. This is referred to again on page 16.

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The **Peak District Partnership** recognises the potential benefits of a combined authority and states that in the D2 area, a future combined authority would need to recognise and respond to the different challenges faced in each part of the county. The Partnership particularly notes the issues relating to rural areas such as the Peak District,

*“Key issues in rural areas such [as Derbyshire] include: creating more high value jobs (and ensuring our younger people have the skills to access them); helping small and micro-businesses to grow; accelerating the delivery of smaller employment sites to enable growth; and maintaining the delivery of affordable housing schemes.”*

.....

The **Highways Agency** welcomes the combined authority proposal as it will help to meet key local challenges particularly around developing transport and housing infrastructure and drive this growth forward.

.....

**Marketing Derby** identifies the need for Derby city representation on the Derby Economic Partnership and the **Federation of Small Businesses** similarly identified the need for small businesses through or on the Local Economic Partnership.

Of those who raised concerns with the proposal, analysis of the qualitative responses identified that many had mistaken the CA proposal to be a merger of existing local authorities – or a proposal to create a unitary organisation. Other comments included:

- a view the CA was an additional expensive tier of governance
- that executive activities were being created at the expense of frontline services
- the combined authority was potentially a ‘talking shop’
- concerns that certain parts of the combined authority area would benefit at the expense of others
- loss of local accountability, particularly in relation to local needs being regularly considered
- possible conflict between rural vs urban considerations and between Derby and the rest of the Derbyshire area

Additional comments were made asking for care in protecting the independence and character of Derby, and the towns and villages of Derbyshire against a bland ‘super-authority’. Similarly, a number of people and parish councils want to be assured the CA would replace decision-making at local level and take it away from local people or adversely impact on the capacity to respond to local needs.

Conversely, three respondents asked why these ambitions required a statutory change and a small number raised preferences for a more radical review of structures, suggesting unitary status, new regional government and stronger links with the core cities on the Derbyshire boundaries.

## **D2 Joint Committee Response:**

In considering all of the above the D2 Joint Committee is clear that the proposed D2 Combined Authority is focused on ‘making two tier government work’ and is not looking to create a unitary authority by stealth. To this end all the supporting information issued in briefings and as part of consultation, including the ‘frequently asked questions’ document, clearly stated this

The Combined Authority does not present an additional tier but is about creating an arena for sharper and more collaborative decision making on complex and cross boundary issues such as regeneration and transport; issues that extend beyond local authority boundaries and require more strategic, shared solutions. The five ambitions of the combined authority are fully focused on addressing frontline services and community issues such as more jobs, skills and homes.

Adoption of the LEP’s Single Appraisal Framework for the prioritisation of projects will ensure parity and transparency in decision making and will increase local

accountability; the checks and balances to such decisions will be secured through the D2 CA Scrutiny Committee.

In so far as demonstrating value for money is concerned, the cost of supporting the combined authority arrangements will be no greater than the current cost of supporting the wider LEP regeneration, economic development and transport arrangements. The required executive posts of the CA will be discharged as additional duties to existing post holders in the constituent authorities.

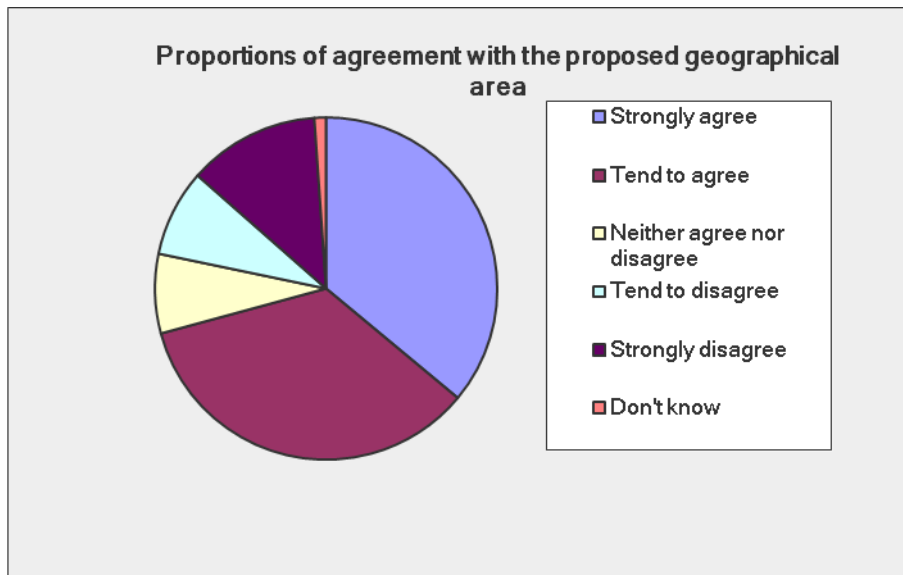
**Proposed Action:** undertake refinements to the narrative of the Review Report to make clear the role and purpose of the D2CA, clarify representation on key governance groups and emphasise how transparency and accountability in decision making will be secured.

### Question 3: The geographical area of the proposed combined authority

This question was asked to test the level of support for the recommendation to create a combined authority based on Derby and Derbyshire economic geography and provide evidence for the statutory tests related to 'economic area'.

The table and pie chart below show the question and the response rate. Overall, 636 people responded, 70.7% of which 'strongly or tended to agree' with the proposed geographical area of the Combined Authority. A further 7.5% were neutral.

<i>The geographical area of the proposed Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority is the whole county of Derbyshire, including Derby City. How strongly do you agree or disagree with this proposed geographical area for the Combined Authority?</i>		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	36.0%	229
Tend to agree	34.7%	221
Neither agree nor disagree	7.5%	48
Tend to disagree	8.2%	52
Strongly disagree	12.4%	79
Don't know	1.1%	7
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>636</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>98</b>



One individual said:

*“This is a fantastic idea building on the sense of identity within Derbyshire...”*

The **Federation of Small Businesses Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire** strongly supports the proposed economic geography but suggests its effectiveness will depend on local authorities’ ability to work across borders and at sub-divisional levels to support district level economies.

A total of 20 qualitative comments were received which drew out the relationship with existing neighbouring combined authorities in Sheffield and Manchester; 14 of these argued this was a missed opportunity to completely re-asses the boundaries and **only six suggested dividing Derbyshire between Sheffield, Manchester and Nottingham / Nottinghamshire.**

An additional 21 respondents (both residents and businesses) raised specific questions about the High Peak area and how this would affect the existing relationship particularly between Glossop, and Greater Manchester in relation to transport and travel to work patterns. The lack of connection between the High Peak area and Derby city was noted. One substantive response was received in relation to the tiers of administration operating in High Peak and the resulting complexity or lack of transparency for service delivery. Concern was expressed that a combined authority would add to this complexity.

A very small number of people (2) raised similar issues about Erewash and its ‘natural’ links with Nottinghamshire.

**Marketing Derby** agreed with the definition of the three functioning economic areas within the wider geography. More information was requested on how the overall D2 structure would relate to these.

## D2 Joint Committee Response

The D2 Joint Committee has carefully and thoroughly considered the economic geography of the D2 area and its relationship with adjacent local authorities and combined authorities. This work has been subject to challenge and analysis from Ekosgen and complements the economic analysis undertaken by the N2 Joint Committee. The Committee is therefore satisfied that the proposed D2 Combined Authority area reflects the natural geography and economic patterns and is the most pragmatic response to what otherwise would be a large and disconnected physical geography; it considers the proposal meets the relevant statutory tests.

Existing, cross boundary relationships, particularly with Greater Manchester, Sheffield City Region and the proposed Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority, have been fully reflected in the detailed governance proposals. This includes relationship managers being nominated to ensure current relationships are not only maintained, but are enhanced and that residents of adjoining or overlapping local authorities continue to benefit from shared discussion and solutions. Progress has already been made on developing a Memorandum of Understanding with Sheffield City Region and similar protocols for N2 and Greater Manchester will follow.

### Question 4: the five main areas of ambition

This question was asked to test the level of support for the five ambitions for the Combined Authority and specifically, to help demonstrate whether they would improve the economic conditions of the area and the effectiveness of current arrangements.

There was similar strong support for the proposed ambitions, with at least half of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing to all five (jobs, skills, transport, homes and investment); notably, 72% and 69% respondents expressed support for the transport and investment ambitions respectively.

*The ten councils have developed five main areas on which to focus their work if the Combined Authority goes ahead. For each of these areas, do you agree that a combined authority is likely to improve:*

- *Skills: provide better opportunities for improving the skills and training of the local workforce and closer working with local employers*
- *Transport: improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public transport so people can reach jobs and move around the county more easily*

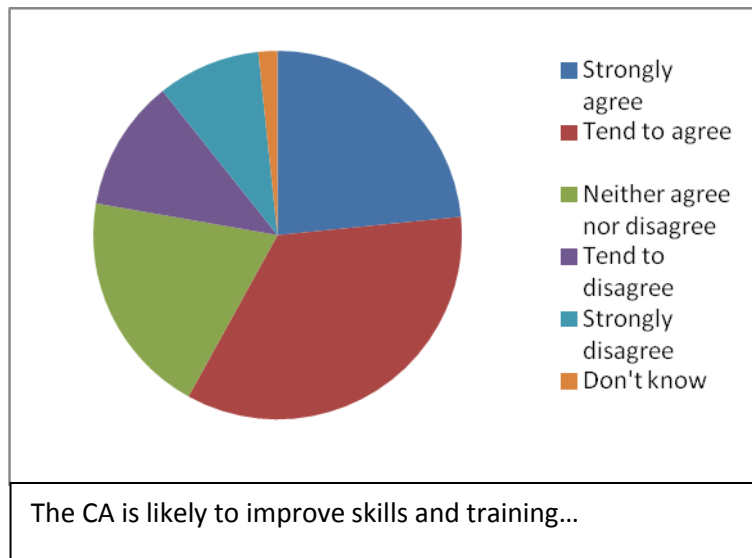
- *Homes: increase the supply and affordability of housing to meet local needs*
- *Jobs: secure more and better paid jobs across all areas of the economy and improve access to employment opportunities*
- *Investment: attract investment, new development and grow our local economy*

The table below shows the level of support for each of the ambitions. Individual pie charts are provided for each specific area.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Total Respondents
Skills: provide better opportunities for improving the skills and training of the local workforce and closer working with local employers	23.45% 140	34.67% 207	19.77% 118	11.56% 69	9.05% 54	1.68% 10	597
Transport: improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public transport so people can reach jobs and move around the county more easily	35.97% 214	36.30% 216	11.43% 68	7.39% 44	8.24% 49	1.01% 6	595
Homes: increase the supply and affordability of housing to meet local needs	21.12% 124	32.20% 189	21.98% 129	10.56% 62	10.90% 64	3.41% 20	587
Jobs: secure more and better paid jobs across all areas of the economy and improve access to employment opportunities	21.79% 129	27.53% 163	25.34% 150	13.01% 77	10.14% 60	2.53% 15	592
Investment: attract investment, new development and grow our local economy	33.05% 196	36.09% 214	14.17% 84	7.59% 45	7.25% 43	2.02% 12	593

### Skills:

Just over 58% strongly or tended to agree the CA will improve skills in the D2 area. Specifically, one training provider welcomed the opportunity to find ways to tailor programmes to local need. Fluidity in the system to work across boundaries, was also recommended, particularly between D2 and N2. Further consideration was requested to be given to the representation of the skills sector on the CA.

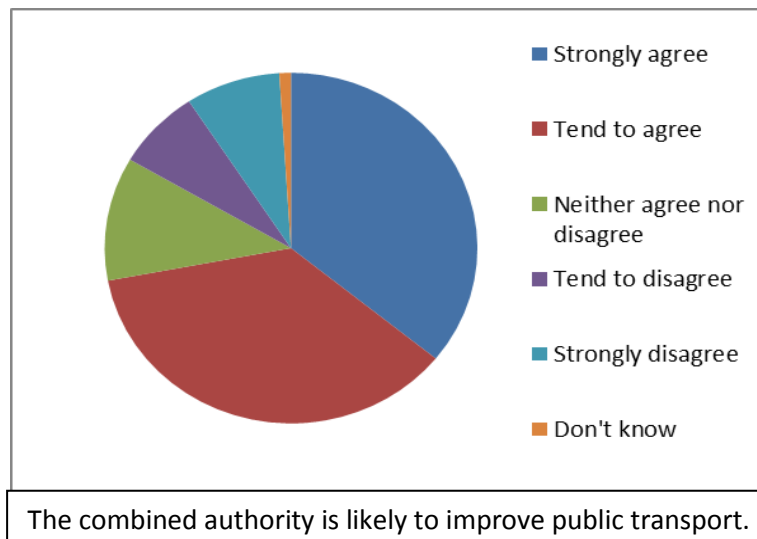


The **Peak District Partnership** wants young people from rural areas to have access to skills training in order to help them compete for good jobs.

**Marketing Derby** raises the issue of working with primary and secondary schools and asks how performance can be improved.

**Transport:**

Nearly three quarters of all respondents strongly or tended to agreed that the CA would improve transport.



Specifically, the **Highways Agency** wrote to say the combined authority proposal will help to simplify and deliver the SRN investment and allow a more strategic overview to effectively manage the network as a whole.

The **Federation of Small Businesses Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire** confirmed its broad support for transport improvements and commented it will improve the

quality, capacity and integration of Derby and Derbyshire's road, rail and air transport networks.

*“Transport issues are a recognised barrier to growth of small businesses and reaching agreement on resolving the problems with the region is essential for business and economic growth”.*

An individual commuter is enthusiastic about the opportunities for a combined authority to develop a transport plan to address commuter bottlenecks with incentives to use an improved public transport system.

A further 18 detailed comments were made on where and how improvements need to be made to public transport such as;

- needs to be improved to make it more accessible, convenient and cheaper
- needs to be better connected across boundaries and to be available for longer hours
- public transport in rural areas needs to be addressed

Specific issues in relation to High Peak were raised; one business respondent commented that Glossop needs better links to Manchester but also much better links to Sheffield and Derby. The reliance on train services to Manchester was highlighted. The respondent commented that transport is an impediment to business in High Peak which might be relieved by the Mottram by-pass.

### **Homes:**

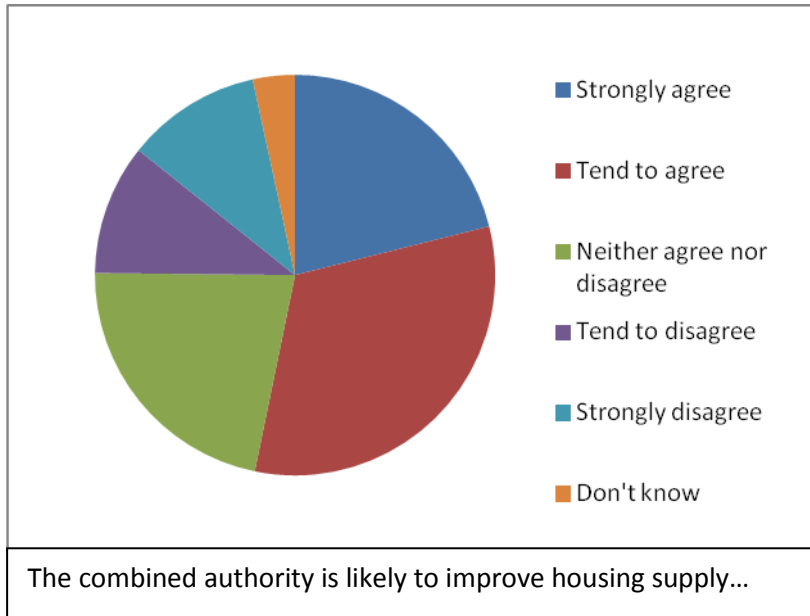
A total of 53.35% of respondents, providers and the **Housing and Communities Agency** (HCA) expressed agreement for this ambition.

A housing providing homes commented it welcomed a county approach.

Through detailed dialogue, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) that it welcomed the strategic approach afforded by a CA because it would;

- be a welcome strategic approach
- help create an opportunity to free up land across the D2 area
- help establish working arrangements with developers
- help match demand with supply





Further discussion with the HCA also confirmed it would like to be involved in developing more detail on how the authorities will work together to develop trusted relationships with registered providers and developers, incentives for cooperation, activities to reduce risk and increase viability and processes to harness private investment. Further clarity was also advised on how a mixture of open market and affordable homes will be developed.

**The Peak District Partnership** wants to see the delivery of affordable housing schemes in rural areas. Comments were also made about the nature of housing with suggestions that homes should be good quality, built to the industry standard, and help support sustainable communities by being 'life time homes'.

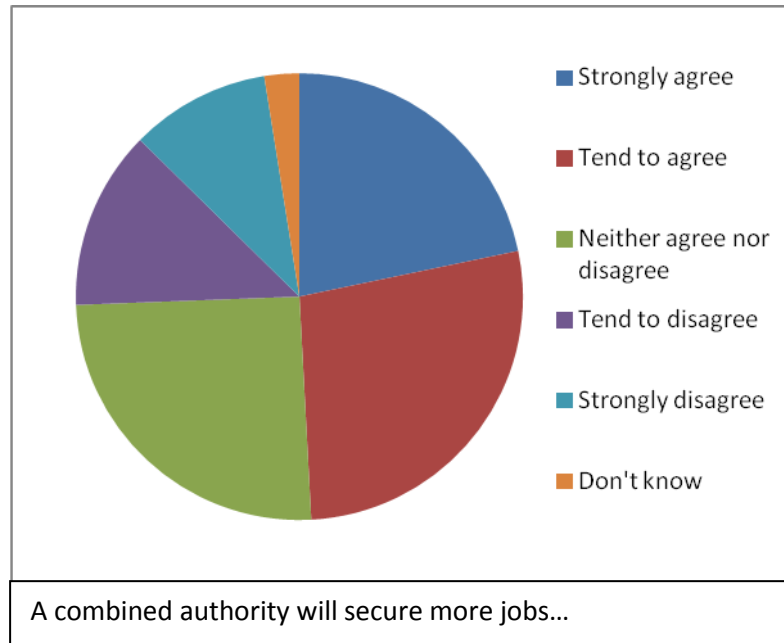
Some issues were raised around rural areas outside of the Peak District National Park Authority 'taking the brunt' of new development.

The need to link housing strategy with economic development and transport planning was strongly reflected in the comments received.

## Jobs:

Half of all respondents believe a combined authority would improve employment.

One Glossop based business said it, “*would put economic growth at the heart of regional decision making*”.



The **Midlands Trade Union Council** has expressed broad support for the proposal and wants to see trade union representation on stakeholder forums. The Midlands TUC welcomes the aspiration to create jobs and states these should be sustainable and of high quality, with a commitment to paying the living wage. The Combined Authority and D2N2 LEP should use their economic ‘clout’ to use procurement to drive better quality and better paid work throughout Derbyshire.

The **Peak District Partnership** wants to see more high value jobs in rural areas.

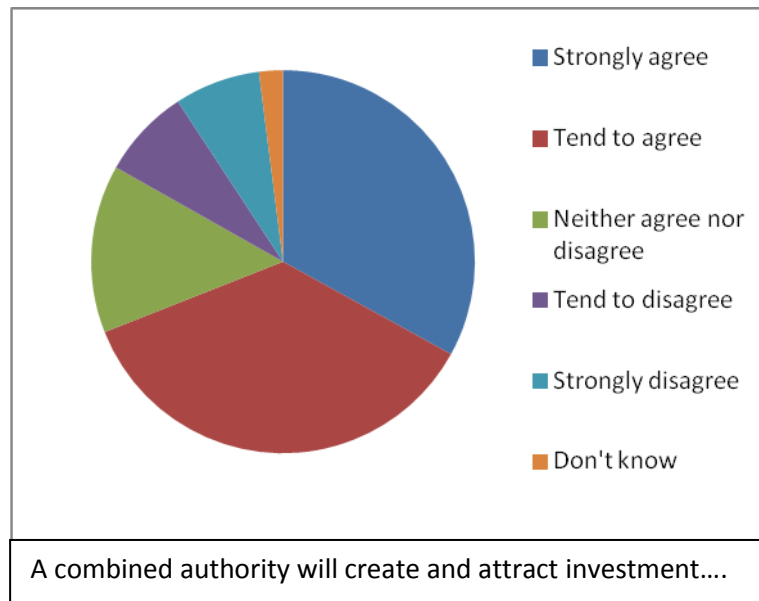
Comments received as part of more detailed, qualitative responses show that people believe that a combined authority will facilitate more government money into the local economy and will help create new enterprise. Support for smaller businesses and start ups was recognised as important and that regeneration should not just be focused on the ‘big sites’.

**Marketing Derby** asks for more detail on how the proposed CA would meet the new jobs target. More detail was also requested on the skills proposals, particularly around the performance of the secondary and primary schools.

There is some concern amongst local authority staff that the proposals will lead to staff cuts and that staff want support and training to make the transition.

### Creating and Attracting Investment:

A total of 69% of respondents strongly or tend to agree that a combined authority will improve the region's ability to attract investment and create a healthier economy.



### D2 Joint Committee Response

The ambitions of CA have been developed from a thorough appraisal of the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan and the current economic strategies of Derby and Derbyshire (DES and DESS respectively).

Issues and concerns raised through consultation and there is scope to clarify how some of the ambitions will work to address the prevailing economic conditions.

It is proposed the development of ambitions, priorities, asks, freedoms and flexibilities for the D2 CA will continue to be refined as the statutory process with Government roles out. This will build on the good foundation of active engagement with key stakeholders such as the Skills Funding Agency for developing education and training, with the Department for Transport and with the Homes and Communities Agency, alongside other local stakeholders through the DEP etc.

**Action:** Refine wording of review report where appropriate to ensure further clarity of proposals and draw out, as far as possible, how key concerns/ issues can be addressed.

### **Adding to the ambitions:**

One parish council, Stanton in Peak suggested a sixth ambition;

*“Support our environment - to sustain visitor income - by ensuring all agencies work together”.*

In addition, some qualitative responses indicate there is an appetite for the ambitions and work of the CA to go beyond the functions of regeneration, transport and skills. Health service providers recognised the strong link between homes, transport and jobs in terms of wellbeing and drew connections with mental health and adult social care.

### **The D2 Joint Committee Response**

The combined authority arrangements provide a strategic platform from which to better influence devolution and funding deals.

The current scope of functions proposed for the combined authority is restricted by statute. However, the D2 Joint Committee is ambitious to harness the synergy between its functions and those of other agencies in order to add real value and secure intelligent delivery – not just on current functions but across wider agendas in the future.

The D2 Joint Committee is fully aware of the relationship between the D2N2 LEP and the two Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) for the Derbyshire area. There is a strong intention to encourage a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to economic development, particularly through new regeneration projects. The Committee recognises the need for more clarity and detail in the proposal in order to refine this intention and to state it clearly as a theme across the five ambitions.

**Action:** Ensure relationship with LNP and LEP is made clear in governance terms and that sustainability and environmental concerns/ issues and their contribution to driving economic growth, are emphasised throughout the review report and final ambitions (golden thread).

## Question five: supporting economic growth

This question sought to test the level of support for ensuring strong relationships with other organisations the support economic growth across Derbyshire.

The table below shows the breakdown of responses. A total of 580 people responded and overall, 74.1% strongly or tended to agree the proposal would support economic growth.

*The Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority proposes to build strong links with other organisations that are critical to supporting economic growth. You can read more about this on our website. How strongly do you agree or disagree with this proposal?*

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	34.3%	199
Tend to agree	39.8%	231
Neither agree nor disagree	12.6%	73
Tend to disagree	5.9%	34
Strongly disagree	5.9%	34
Don't know	1.6%	9
<i>answered question</i>		<b>580</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>154</b>

A number of key stakeholders gave qualitative responses to this question, providing comments and suggestions which are indicative of their valid contribution to the CA arrangements and which demonstrate how their expertise and peer challenge can ensure the work of the CA meets local need. A few examples are highlighted below:

The **D2N2 Local Economic Partnership** has been thoroughly engaged with the D2 Joint Committee on reviewing the context for economic growth and recommending the combined authority as the way forward.

The **East Midlands Chamber of Commerce** is very supportive of the proposal;

*“The Chamber has always been supportive of the LEP as a light-touch strategic body, business-led and seen to be independent of individual Local Authorities. However, it is abundantly clear that without effective partnerships ... in the two counties, there can be no democratic input or effective delivery of services.*

*The decision of the local authorities [D2 and N2] in both counties to [create] effective single bodies is warmly welcomed. The Chamber believes this will maximise the potential of the D2N2 LEP and the relationship with national Government. Co-ordinated local action will also ensure the best use of scant resource and expertise and will provide an effective interface for joint working with the private and third sectors.”*

The **Federation of Small Business Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire** strongly agrees with the proposal and says that;

*“The issues that businesses face, and the requirements for the economic development and regeneration of our towns and cities, do not stop at the current local authority boundary lines. The collaboration of neighbouring local authorities would allow decisions on transport and economic investment to be discussed and agreed thereby providing consistency. However, FSB Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire would caution that economic investment must be fairly shared across the districts so that the specific economic priorities in one district can be met, even if there is no obvious advantage to another district. FSB Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire would not want to see strategically important projects in districts being compromised by lack of funding because of financial investment in projects that predominantly benefit one of the principal cities in the D2N2 LEP area.”*

**Peak District Partnership** has advised there needs to be development of small and micro businesses to accelerate the delivery of smaller employment sites.

The **National Forest Company, Stanton in Peak Parish Council** and the **Peak District National Park Authority** asked that development be mindful of environmental and sustainability concerns, particularly in relation to tourism. protection for ‘greenfield’ sites.

One housing provider says,

*“The county alone is not big enough to attract national/international attention”.*

### **The D2 Joint Committee Response:**

The Joint Committee believes that a combined authority will enable councils in D2 to benefit from acting strategically across the whole economic area, whilst still retaining the local connection provided by each individual council and its work with other partners. This will ensure strong local representation outside of public sector and the proposed ‘stakeholder forum’ (DEP) will ensure appropriate levels of challenge and expertise are utilised in the development of priorities and proposals, to the benefit of the whole D2 (and wider D2N2) area. Representation on the DEP is proposed to be extended to include stakeholders from all key areas.

Attendance at the CA Board is being offered to representatives of key stakeholder groups and relationship managers for adjacent CAs is also proposed.

The use of D2N2s Single Appraisal Framework will prevent any bias in the determination of priorities and projects and will ensure that relevant interests and impacts have been tested and balanced.

The central role of the D2N2 LEP and the more comprehensive stakeholder forums will lead to stronger relationships with business.

The D2 Joint Committee is fully aware of the relationship between the D2N2 LEP and the two Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) for the Derbyshire area. There is a strong intention to encourage a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach alongside economic development, particularly through new regeneration projects.

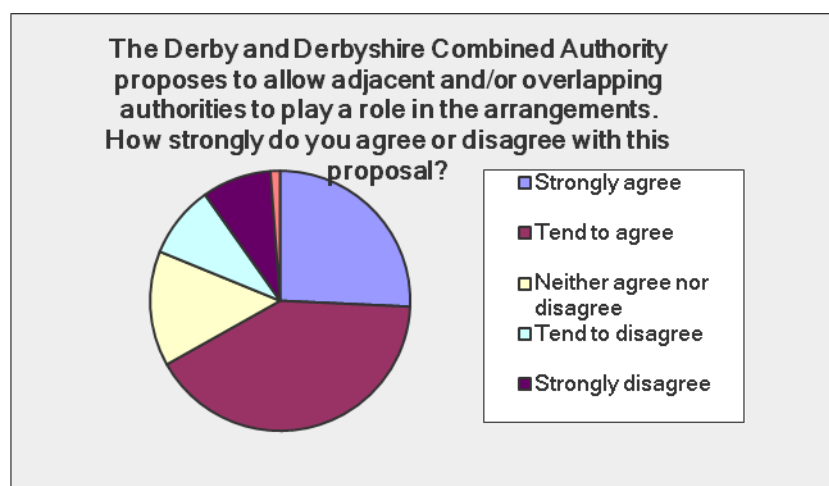
**Action:** Ensure clarity of role and representation for key stakeholders as part of the D2CA governance arrangements.

### Question 6: relationship with adjacent authorities

This question was asked to test the level of support for the D2 CA to form collaborative relationships with neighbouring or adjacent authorities.

The table and pie chart below show the breakdown of responses. Overall, 66.8% strongly or tend to agree with the proposal to allow adjacent authorities to play a role in the D2 CA.

The Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority proposes to allow adjacent and/or overlapping authorities to play a role in the arrangements. How strongly do you agree or disagree with this proposal?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	25.7%	149
Tend to agree	41.1%	238
Neither agree nor disagree	14.3%	83
Tend to disagree	9.0%	52
Strongly disagree	8.6%	50
Don't know	1.2%	7
<i>answered question</i>		<b>579</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>155</b>



In undertaking the governance review, the Joint Committee has been mindful of the existing, non-constituent membership some districts have with adjoining combined authorities (Sheffield City Region) and other informal, but nevertheless strong, relationships with Greater Manchester (High Peak) and Nottinghamshire (Erewash).

Of the 743 total respondents, 43 have made reference to the adjacent or overlapping authorities. Analysis of postcodes suggests the majority of these responses are from areas which share a boundary with other areas outside Derbyshire and where respondents have said they would like to see these connections supported. The High Peak area (Glossop) in particular,

The **Peak District National Park Authority** (PDNPA) has sent an interim response to say it welcomes the proposal and the invitation to take up observer status on the authority. It makes reference to the Environment Act and asks that the CA acknowledges its duty to have regard to the purposes of designation duties under the act. The PDNPA asks for more details on this to be agreed.

Respondents expressing rural concerns mention the inclusion of the PDNPA as a 'rural voice' in the north of the county.

A number of respondents provided a balance of views (positive and negative) about the involvement of the PDNPA.

In the south of the county, the National Forest Company welcomes opportunities for further discussions as the detailed shape of the combined authority develops.

The **Peak District Partnership** wants to see a combined authority working with and strengthening existing partnerships. They state the CA should,

“..recognise and encourage joint working across functional economic areas. Both the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak have economic ties with neighbouring economies already operating Combined Authorities..... Cross boundary working with Staffordshire partners (through initiatives like LEADER) also remains essential to sustaining a healthy Peak District economy. Maintaining these important relationships will help support economic growth in the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak.”

Parish and town councils and voluntary sector organisations have asked for more information about how they will relate to the combined authority structures.

The **Sheffield City Region Combined Authority** (SCRCA) has written to ask for more formal working arrangements which allow the overlapping district members to have an 'equal relationship' with the two combined authorities. Currently, the SCRCA



is seeking, through legislative reform, for a change to the membership rules of combined authorities. In the meantime they seek:

- protocols within the combined authority documentation to allow the full participation of the four Derbyshire districts in the SCR combined authority where they are non-constituent members.
- commitment from the proposed combined authority to continue to work constructively with the SCRCA on the delivery of shared priorities.

The SCRCA request further clarity on the relationship with the LEP and who/ how to engage best on overlap issues.

### **The D2 Joint Committee Response:**

Work on the governance review and the resulting D2 CA proposal has continuously emphasised the need and desire to protect and enhance the existing relationships with other CAs. There is a clear aspiration to strengthen these arrangements and improve co-operation and mutual prosperity.

The principle of 'overlapping' with the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority was accepted from the start and has been carefully considered. There is a strong intention by the Joint Committee that the future CA should work towards strengthening the economy of the whole 'north Midlands' region, in collaboration with other combined authorities and that the cross boundary concerns of transport and housing should be planned together.

The Combined Authority will make partnership working more streamlined by improving strategic focus and targeting communication and discussion through nominated relationship managers from the D2 CA Board.

In preparing the review, the Committee has presented all constituent members with the current legislative framework; the Committee will continue to monitor changes in legislation and be by guided by its members on future development.

**It is acknowledged that journey to work patterns linking to other CAs (SCR, GM and N2). D2 Joint Committee have a strong track record of working constructively with adjacent authorities – as a CA, we will be in a much stronger position to influence DM.**

**Action:** continue to prepare Memoranda of Understanding for the adjacent combined authorities.

Continue to monitor any proposed legislative changes to related statute and ensure discussion at the Joint Committee accordingly.

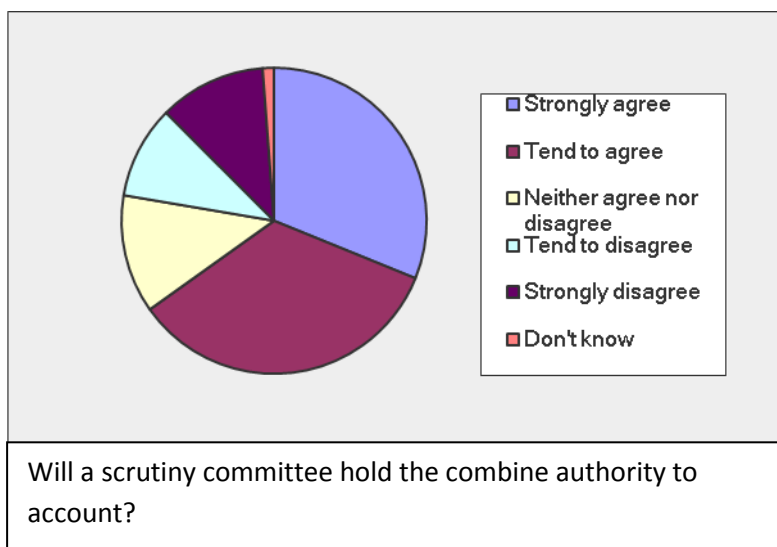
## **Question 7: Holding the Combined Authority to Account**

This question was asked to test the level of support for the recommendation to create a D2 Scrutiny Committee.

The table and pie chart below provide a breakdown of the responses. Overall, 65.1% strongly or tended to agree with the proposal.

**We are proposing that the Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority is held to account by a 'scrutiny committee' made up of an elected member (councillor) from each of the ten councils. How strongly do you agree or disagree that these arrangements will ensure that the combined authority is held to account?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	31.1%	181
Tend to agree	34.0%	198
Neither agree nor disagree	12.5%	73
Tend to disagree	9.8%	57
Strongly disagree	11.3%	66
Don't know	1.2%	7
<i>answered question</i>		<b>582</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>152</b>



This was an important issue for those providing specific qualitative comments on this question. A total of 20 respondents suggested that scrutiny should include other stakeholders with relevant experience and knowledge. Analysis shows these comments came from residents, the voluntary sector, training and business representatives. The need for political impartiality was also raised.

One MP queried what the make-up of Scrutiny would be and how party representation would be determined.

The **Federation of Small Businesses** advised:

*“...we would advocate the membership going above and beyond non-executive members from each council. In keeping with other council Overview and Scrutiny Committees, FSB Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire firmly believes the Scrutiny Committee must consist of local business representatives and members of the public as well as non-executive Councillors from each local authority.”*

From the qualitative comments received there is a clear desire for transparency, that scrutiny should be meaningful (have teeth) and there should be well informed objective challenge.

### **The D2 Joint Committee Response**

The Joint Committee has set out its broad proposals for Scrutiny in the draft Scheme. Beyond political membership, other proposals to co-opt relevant stakeholders will continue to develop and will be related to the scrutiny area under consideration at any given time.

In particular arrangements for scrutiny will ensure transparency, parity, best use of intelligence and experience and redress.

**Action:** No further action at this time.

### **Conclusion.**

The consultation process has demonstrated strong and wide ranging support for the proposal to create a Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority and there is a clear mandate to submit the proposal to DCLG. The response of the Joint Committee to the issues raised has been identified, along with actions to refine and reshape specific proposals.

On that basis, it is considered the public consultation exercise has been both valid and meaningful. In direct response to the comments received, additional information will be included that: emphasises the importance of the rural economy and the need to embed environmental concerns in all aspects of economic activity; clarifies and secures the input/ expertise of key stakeholders; that ensure governance is appropriate and that local decision making is enhanced; that relationships with adjacent and overlapping CAs are strengthened and that priority setting and decision making is transparent.

In going forward, there is more to consider and consultation results have provided food for thought and positive challenge to our preparations and the longer term ambitions of the CA. A continuing process of meaningful engagement and collaboration is proposed with all relevant stakeholders and it is fully appreciated this period of engagement is only the beginning.

In the short term, all ten authorities are seeking approval for the D2 CA through individual council meetings. The contents of this appendix will be reported to council meetings and will ensure elected members are able to make robust and considered decisions on the proposal to create a D2 Combined Authority.

This consultation report will be made available on the website and those who have asked for feedback will be made aware by e-mail.

## **Summary of Stakeholders Providing Qualitative Responses.**

An asterisk \* shows that the response was made directly, not through the survey.

### **Parish and Town Councils**

Alfreton Town Council  
Castle Gresley Parish Council  
Chelmorton Parish Council  
Chinley, Buxworth and Brownside Parish Council  
Codnor Parish Council  
Draycott Parish Council  
Grassmoor Parish Council  
Matlock Town Council  
Marston Montgomery Parish Council  
Ripley Town Council \*  
Sandiacre Parish Council  
Stanton in Peak Parish Council

### **Adjacent authorities and Public Sector Organisations**

Nottingham City Council \*  
Nottinghamshire County Council\*  
Sheffield City Region\*  
Peak District National Park Authority\*  
National Forest Company  
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service\*  
The Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office

### **Business**

East Midlands Chamber of Commerce\*  
The Derbyshire Federation of Small Businesses\*  
The Derbyshire Economic Partnership\*  
The D2 Local Economic Partnership\*  
Marketing Derby\*  
Peak District Partnership\*

### **Trade Unions**

The Midlands Trade Union Council

### **Transport**

The Department for Transport\*  
Local bus operator\*  
The Highways Agency\*

### **Housing**

Homes and Communities Association\*  
Derwent Living

### **Health**

North Derbyshire CCG,  
Erewash CCG,  
Hardwick CCG  
Southern Derbyshire CCG  
Derbyshire Community health Services NHS Foundation Trust

### **Education**

Skills Funding Agency (declined to comment formally on a submission to another government department but keen to be kept abreast of the development)\*  
A local training provider

### **Members of Parliament\***

Derby and Derbyshire:

Margaret Beckett (Derby South)  
Andrew Bingham (High Peak)  
Pauline Latham (Mid Derbyshire)  
Patrick McLoughlin (Derbyshire Dales)  
Nigel Mills (Amber Valley)  
Dennis Skinner (Bolsover)  
Heather Wheeler (South Derbyshire)  
Chris Williamson (North Derbyshire) - letter

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire:

Graham Allen  
Ken Clark  
Vernon Coaker