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Helen Barrington
Director of Legal and
Democratic Services
County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG

Extension 38324
Direct Dial 01629 538328
Ask for Alisha Parker

PUBLIC

To: Members of D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity

Wednesday, 6 December 2023

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the **D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity** to be held at **9.30 am** on **Thursday, 14 December 2023** in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AG, the agenda for which is set out below.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen E. Barrington'.

Helen Barrington
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

A G E N D A

PART I - NON-EXEMPT ITEMS

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence (if any)

2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of interest (if any)

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the non-exempt minutes of the meeting of the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity held on 28 September 2023.

4. Welcome and Introductions

5. Business Start up Scheme: Progress Report (Pages 5 - 20)

Report outlining the current status of the activity and potential for inclusion of the programme in proposed EMCCA.

6. Employment and Skills Update (Pages 21 - 22)

Reporting outlining the level of activity and successes being delivered through the various skills initiatives including new Youth Hubs in Chesterfield and Ilkeston, National Careers Service and apprenticeship Levy. Consideration of activity as part of potential programme area in proposed EMCCA.

7. Retained Business Rates Update (Pages 23 - 36)

Report providing a round up of all activity funded from the retained business rates pot, outline of success and setting out options for future allocation of underspend.

8. Governance: Progressing to Strategic Leadership Board (Pages 37 - 62)

Report setting out proposals to formally move to creating the new D2 Strategic Leadership Board, relationship with Vision Derbyshire proposals and draft terms of reference for consideration.

9. Creating New Governance Arrangements for the Derby and Derbyshire Geography: Proposed Dissolution of the Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity (Pages 63 - 64)

Covering report supported by verbal presentation at the meeting on current status of progress towards creating the EMCCA and next steps.

10. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed as part of schedule of meetings for Strategic Leadership Board.

11. Exclusion of the Public

To move “That under Regulation 21 (1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s)... of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972”

PART II - EXEMPT ITEMS

12. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest (if any).

13. Minutes (Pages 65 - 66)

To confirm the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity held on 28 September 2023.

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PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY** held on Thursday, 28 September 2023 at Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AG.

PRESENT

Councillor B Lewis (in the Chair)

Councillors N Barker (North East Derbyshire District Council), J Dawson (Erewash Brough Council), C Emmas-Williams (Amber Valley Borough Council), S Flitter (Derbyshire Dales District Council), S Fritchley (Bolsover District Council), T Gilby (Chesterfield Borough Council), A McKeown (High Peak Borough Council), and N Peatfield (Derby City Council).

Also in attendance was E Alexander (Derbyshire County Council), K Allen (Marketing Derby), J Battye (Derbyshire County Council), H Bowen (Chesterfield Borough Council), M Evans (Derbyshire County Council), J Forkin (Marketing Derby), S Gladwin (Amber Valley Borough Council), K Hanson (Bolsover District Council), C Henning (Derbyshire County Council), L Hickin (North East Derbyshire District Council), J Jaroszek (Erewash Brough Council), W Morlidge (D2N2), A Stokes (High Peak Borough Council), and P Wilson (Derbyshire Dales District Council).

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors R Pearson (South Derbyshire District Council) and B Shanker (Derby City Council), and R North (Derby City Council).

22/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record with the addition of Councillor Peatfield's apologies and the change of initial for Councillor S Flitter.

24/23 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Nadine Peatfield Cabinet Member for City Centre, Regeneration, Culture and Tourism at Derby City Council was welcomed to the meeting.

25/23 GOVERNANCE: VISION DERBYSHIRE UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PROPOSALS

E Alexander introduced the item, providing the Committee with a
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summary of the agreed changes to the overall approach of Vision Derbyshire and the implications for the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity.

Committee Members noted an amendment, that the report should refer to both Derby and Derbyshire.

Committee Members would discuss the subject further at their meeting in November, where a report would be brought to formally recommend the approach to dissolution and creating the new arrangements. Following that, each local authority would take a report to their own Council meeting.

RESOLVED to

- 1) Note the agreed changes to the Vision Derbyshire approach, in the context of the emerging East Midlands Combined County Authority;
- 2) Consider the information presented and discuss the strategic implications of the report on the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity Committee;
- 3) Consider the information presented and discuss the proposed single governance framework, the Strategic Leadership Board; and
- 4) Receive a future report on the final terms of reference of the Strategic Leadership Board and the strategic implications for the Committee.

26/23 ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

M Evans introduced the item, providing the Committee with an overview of the presentation on the current economic conditions prevailing across Derby and Derbyshire.

RESOLVED to

- 1) Note the economic baseline presented; and
- 2) Consider implications for the D2 economy and provide a steer on key economic priorities to be included in future growth strategies.

27/23 DEVELOPING THE D2 APPROACH TO STRONGER INWARD INVESTMENT

J Forkin introduced the item, providing the Committee with a summary of the overall approach to inward investment activity, the new contractual arrangements with Marketing Derby and the preparation of an Inward Investment Strategy for the D2 geography.

RESOLVED to

1) Consider the information presented and confirm the inward investment priorities for the D2 area, including the broad shape and content of the draft strategy.

28/23 LEARNING FROM TOWN DEALS

H Bowen introduced the item, providing the Committee with a summary of the presentation outlining the progress made on the Staveley Town Deal programme, including challenges and good practice to help inform future ways of working.

RESOLVED to

1) Note the issues, challenges and opportunities covered in the Staveley Town Deal presentation;

2) Consider how best to use the learning to inform the effective development of the EMCCA pipeline of projects, including embedding discussions/ decisions into the work of the proposed Strategic Leaders' Board as appropriate.

29/23 FUNDING PROPOSAL - BUSINESS START UP PROJECT

This item was postponed until the next meeting of the Committee.

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D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Business Start-Up Scheme: Progress Report

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the Business Start-Up Scheme, including commentary on the scheme's progress compared to pertinent national statistics and client testimonials.
- 1.2 To provide an overview of the costs associated with the assessment, approval, issue and monitoring of Start-Up grants and to set out the need for an administration fee to be charged to cover the administration costs for work on behalf of some local authorities.

2.0 Decision Required by the Derby & Derbyshire Joint Economic Prosperity Committee (D2JC)

2.1 The Joint Committee is requested to:

- a) **Discuss the strong and continued progress of the Start-Up scheme and consider the value of the scheme as a potential area of future activity in the proposed East Midlands County Combined Authority.**
- b) **Make a decision on the commissioning of further analysis to understand applicant type and potential implications/opportunities of the scheme in addressing wider economic challenges**
- c) **Consider and decide that further work be undertaken to assess the amount of administration fee to be applied to work undertaken on behalf of Bolsover DC, Erewash BC and Derby CC.**

3.0 Progress Update

- 3.1 This programme of work continues to go from strength to strength and remains one of the most successful projects run by the Joint Committee.
- 3.2 Over **1000** potential new entrepreneurs have now been enrolled which has surpassed our early expectations and targets set at the outset of the programme. The table below sets out the number of registered clients to

date and clearly demonstrates the continuing high level of interest in the scheme, despite the challenging economic environment.

AREA	TOTAL	Amber Valley	South Derbyshire	Derbyshire Dales	Bolsover	Derby	High Peak	Erewash	Chesterfield	North East Derbyshire	Out of Area
Live	440	48	46	50	56	35	54	9	41	99	0
Dormant	204	40	50	4	15	51	10	11	19	3	1
Closed - Dead	150	4	35	33	0	16	48	2	11	1	0
Closed - Success	263	25	26	46	1	42	16	18	83	4	2
TOTAL	1057	117	157	133	72	144	128	40	154	107	3

3.3 As of 10 November 2023, the following outputs had been achieved:

- **1057** clients have received advice from a Business Adviser
- **440** of those are “live” or actively being supported with advice and being guided through the grant application process.
- **204** are “dormant” where the client has received some initial advice and then opted to take time to further research and develop their business ideas and plans. *It is anticipated many of these will progress and become live again.*

3.4 The remaining enquiries have now been either closed (often having successfully concluded the advice process) or referred to other schemes/organisations such as the Green Entrepreneurs Fund or D2N2 for further support.

3.5 The table also shows the level of activity across each geographical area. Members will recall the project is working slightly differently with the Erewash Partnership who is working with clients to get them grant-ready, as the district already has support in place for start-ups.

Financial Position

3.6 The original allocation of funding from the retained business rates (RBR) monies was £1m; an additional sum of £245,000 was approved by the D2 Joint Committee at its meeting on 8th June 2023, creating a total available pot of £1.245m

3.7 The spend to date (as of 10th November 2023) is **£752,993.17**, leaving **£247,006.83** of the original £1m fund available; the planned spend date for all monies was end of December 2023, however, due to the on-going success and demand, an extension has been agreed until the end of UKSPF (March 2025).

- 3.8 Forecast spend to the end of the calendar year, including staff costs, appraiser costs, evaluation and allocated grant funds yet to be claimed is a further **£192,580.38**. The total grant applications currently in appraisal have a value of **£99,328.92**. If all of these are approved, the scheme will need to allocate **£44,902.47** from the £245,000 D2 RBR funds, leaving **£200,097.53** in the business start up grant; this sits alongside the additional **£435,899** that has been committed by six local authorities from their individual SPF allocations to support the extension of the scheme.

Grant Applications

- 3.9 The project has awarded 100 grants with a combined value of **£349,767.78**; as noted above, applications totalling a further **£99,328.92** are currently in the process of appraisal. The level of client (private sector) investment released by the grants awarded is **£485,668.47** with a client project investment total of **£835,456.25**.
- 3.10 The type of applications coming forward have always includes proposals for businesses such as florists, personal trainers, cafes, bakeries, dog groomers etc. However, in recent months more novel and innovative start up proposals have emerged such as holiday lodges, artisan makers (such craft chocolate maker, fleeces for horses).

Testimonials

- 3.11 The scheme continues to receive exceptionally positive feedback and referrals from the clients. A selection of these is included for reference in the attached Appendix 1.

Setting the Approach within the Broader Economy and Demographics

- 3.12 As the business start up scheme has now been operating for two years, it was felt timely to understand some of the key factors/ impacts of the programme within the context of the wider economic environment. This will provide the Committee with a view of effectiveness and value which should be considered within the context of the proposed EMCCA and the potential for a similar programme to be developed.
- 3.13 Nationally, the self-employed population as at the 2nd quarter of 2023 (Statista 2023) identified as 36% female and 64% male: for the D2 start up scheme, 52% of enquiries have come from individuals who identify as female entrepreneurs and 48% male. Whilst for some of these entrepreneurs, setting up a new business has been seen as a necessity having been made redundant post COVID, others have been seeking

greater control over working hours, more choice of where to work and a better work-life balance. This ties into the headlines of the economic assessment presented to the Joint Committee in September this year which confirmed that the numbers of economically inactive people across D2 is a major risk to growth; encouraging a return to work is seen a key element in driving productivity and GVA uplift. Although start ups are typically solo operators, the positive message here is that we do have a work force that is entrepreneurial and willing to be actively engaged.

- 3.14 Also, over 23% of enquiries received have been from residents over the age of 50 - the age bracket reported to be most economically inactive post COVID. These clients have either wanted to explore setting up a new business which enables them to pursue an unfulfilled passion or to utilise their skill set to generate revenue whilst having greater control over their working conditions.
- 3.15 There have been consistent attempts to ensure that people from all ethnicities have been reached through promotional activity and this has had measurably positive outcomes. For example, in the county area, 10% of enquiries have come from people who identify as being Non-White British, whereas these residents represent only 6% of county's population (Census 2021, ONS). In Derby City, the percentage of enquiries received from Non-White British is much higher at 38% which compares favourably with the 34% of the City's residents who identify themselves as such.
- 3.16 The scheme has clearly been successful in reaching some of the more under-represented groups and based on the table at paragraph 2, is providing opportunities across the whole D2 area. Further exploration of applicant post codes would be an interesting area to test to assess whether rurality is key factor in start up, along with greater understanding around demand for premises – whether these are predominantly home-based/ 'location agnostic' or whether the start ups are generating demand in high streets and town centres. This further analysis will have import in helping understand the longer-term value of the start up addressing some of our other challenges around market town renewal and rural deprivation.

4.0 Understanding Administrative Costs: Overview

- 4.1 As the start up scheme has continued to evolve over recent months, with six of the local authorities asking to align Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) to the programme, it is important that the full costs of support, advice and administration are understood, particularly as three of the authorities (Bolsover, Erewash and Derby City are not aligning SPF to the grant scheme). This allows for more accurate recording of value for

money activity – and ensures that each local authority is able to understand the costs of its elements of the scheme.

4.2 A breakdown of the actual grant process is provided below. To ensure each grant application submitted through the Business Start Up application portal is rigorously reviewed it is subject to several checks as part of the assessment and approval process. These are:

- The Business Adviser checks and supports submission of the application - average 5 hours.
- The Assessor evaluates the application and prepares a recommendation report for the Approval Panel to consider – average of 8 hours per application.
- The Members of the Approval Panel review the application and approve/reject the application - average of 1 hour per panel member- total 5 hours.
- The Project Officer (DCC) liaises with the applicant and raises the Grant Funding Agreement – 1 hour.
- The (DCC) Assistant Director approves Grant Funding Agreement and subsequent claim payments – 0.33 hour.
- The (DCC) Project Officer processes claim(s) – between 1 and 2 hours depending on number and complexity of claims.
- The (DCC) Project Administrator processes payments – 1 hour.
- Business Adviser/Project Officer issues, collates and reviews monitoring reports – 1 hour.

All the above activity has a cost attributable to it and depending on which bit of the scheme local authorities are engaging in (through alignment of SPF), will impact on their 'draw' on the administrative process.

4.3 The Joint Committee will recall that six local authorities (Amber Valley, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak, North East Derbyshire, and South Derbyshire) have advised they wish to extend the Business Start-Up scheme and have confirmed their financial contributions to the running of the scheme using their allocated UKSPF funding and will have 0.5 FTE of a Business Adviser supporting pre-start and start-up businesses in their areas from January 2024 to March 2025. These authorities are also using UKSPF monies to provide Start-Up grants in their areas which will be ringfenced and only be available to approved applications from the relevant geography.

4.4 Bolsover, Erewash and Derby City have decided not to participate in the extension of Start-Up scheme but have requested continued access to the element of the Grant funded through the retained business rates.

4.5 To ensure all administration costs are covered across the whole grant and business support process, a piece of work is being undertaken by the County Council's Economy and Regeneration Service (which hosts the scheme) to understand what charges may need to be apportioned to this activity. It is likely that a small administration fee will be required – applicable to the three non-SPF authorities.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the D2 Joint Committee:

- a) **Notes the strong and continued progress of the Start-Up scheme, considers and confirms the value of the scheme as a potential area of future activity in the proposed East Midlands County Combined Authority.**
- b) **Commissions further analysis of the demographic and economic context of applicants to understand the potential benefits/opportunities of the scheme in addressing wider economic challenges**
- c) **Agrees that further work be undertaken to complete the assessment of administrative costs to be applied to work undertaken on behalf of Bolsover DC, Erewash BC and Derby CC and delegates sign off of the fee to the project sponsor, Cllr Gilby.**

Vision Derbyshire Business Start Up Programme Case Studies

Oak Apple Lodges, Amber Valley



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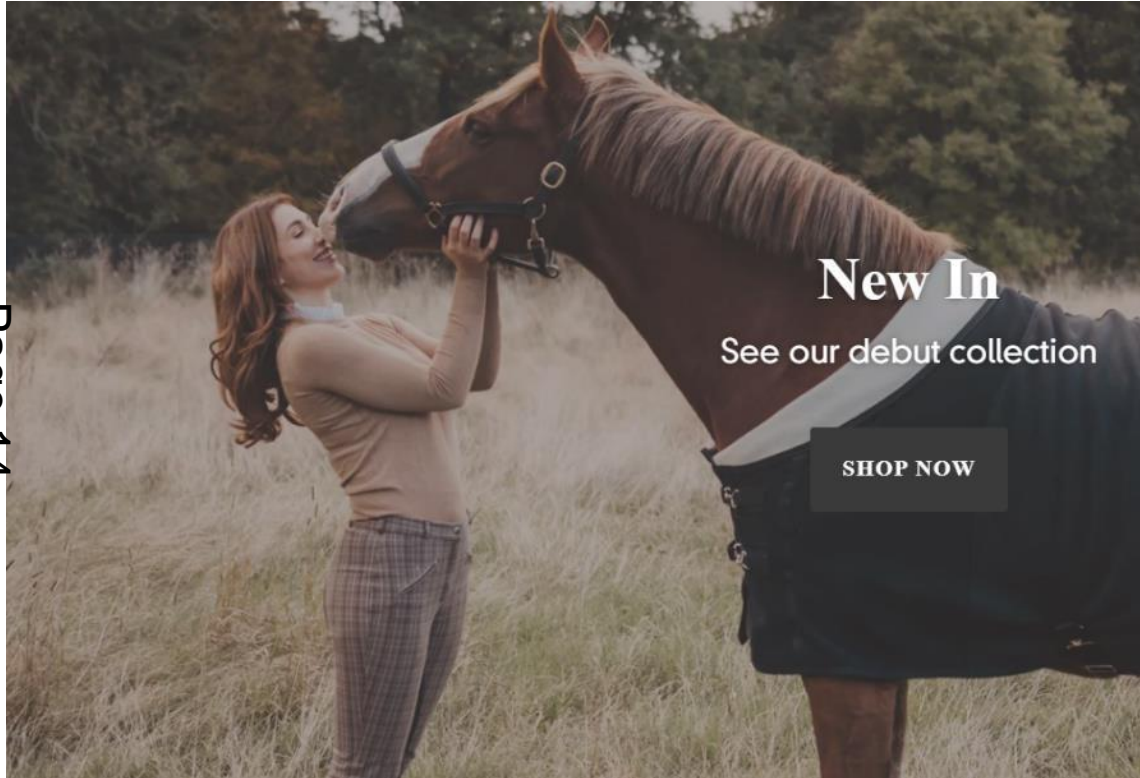
- Holiday Lodges, Tourism
- Landscaping around 5 holiday lodges to high standard – improving accessibility and affordability
- “The grant funding has enabled us to finish the project on time and to a very high standard, which we are very grateful for, thank you!”

Hot Chocolaterie, High Peak



- Craft Chocolate Maker, cakes & ice cream
- “I was lucky to receive a grant towards equipment for my shop and helped immensely. My advisor Pete was brilliant, supporting me thoroughly throughout the whole process, picking up anything I had missed and making sure my application was the best it could be. “





Tack & Tailor NE Derbyshire

Innovative Fleeces for Horses

“I have found the entire process completely seamless. From the initial planning meetings, to finalising my application. Sarah made the process engaging and has taught me so much that I will use daily when managing my business. I cannot wait to work with Sarah and the Vision Derbyshire team over the next year and see my business expand. Thank you! ”



Moko Physiotherapy, Derby City

- Physiotherapy centre
- “My business adviser Jas helped us successfully apply for a grant, which has helped us significantly in the fit out of a new physiotherapy clinic opening in Mickleover, Derby in early 2023. We are extremely grateful as this helps us to develop our business and help more individuals in Derby become healthier and happier.”

Dog & Spoon Distillery, Bolsover



- Craft gin distillery with a passion for sustainability
- “The support we received has helped us save costs of printing and reacting to customer demand with custom prints. This has led to an increased social media presence and sales. In turn this has led to us talking with Nottingham University for a graduate placement to further increase sales.

We have also achieved our goal of achieving Carbon Neutral status for our products.”



CKs Fruit, Veg & Flowers



Business: Grocery & Florist

This scheme not only provides financial support for projects and improvements, it also has training and support behind the scenes to help you succeed as a business, these can include one-to-one conversations, webinars or in-person training days at the colleges and other training providers in the area.

It's very easy as a small business owner to feel alone, however the team have supported us over the last 12 months and are always there if we've got a question or query.

Fountain View Bakery



Business: Artisan Bakery

Peter Lawrence was a great help in getting our business set up. We were delighted to obtain a £10,000 grant which helped us to buy essential equipment including an oven, mixer, prover, fridge and a display unit. Peter was always available to guide me. He was always calm and knew how best to articulate my responses.

Peter's marketing experience has also proved valuable as we move onto how best to promote our business throughout the Peak District.

Sarah Kenny Personal Training



Business: Personal Trainer

My business advisor has been an enormous help offering guidance on my business plan, market research, pricing strategy and marketing. He also assisted me in my successful application for a grant to pay for additional training as a nutrition coach and equipment both of which will help me to grow and diversify my business.

It can be quite lonely starting a business on your own and it has been so brilliant having Pete to check in with, run ideas past and to keep me accountable. I have been able to maintain my autonomy throughout the process and Pete has always kept the balance of being an advisor and offering guidance rather than pushing his ideas on to me which has been so important.

Pete has also informed me about local networking events and workshops, I attended a marketing workshop in Chesterfield which was very useful and it was great to meet other people there who were running small businesses in Derbyshire.

I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Vision Derbyshire to anyone in the process of starting a business, they can only add value and their support has been a massive part of the successful launch of my business.



Natalie's Dog Salon

Business: Dog Grooming

"I have always wanted to run my own business and my love for dogs meant that dog grooming was the perfect idea. Dog grooming is essential to the welfare of a dog's health. Ensuring that I achieved an accredited qualification has allowed me to learn the skill safely.

Thank you to Vision Derbyshire for the Start-Up support which enabled me to buy a hydrobath which is not only a little indulgence for dogs but also has many health benefits."

D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Update on D2 Employment and Skills Services

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity (D2JC) with an overview of the presentation to be shared at the meeting regarding key employment and skills services supported by the Committee.

2.0 Discussion/Decision Required by the Derbyshire Joint Economic Prosperity Committee (D2JC)

2.1 The Joint Committee is requested to:

- a) Consider the information presented at the meeting and discuss the relative merits of the projects in driving economic growth across the D2 area, and particularly consider the relevance of such projects within the context of the proposed East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA).

3.0 Information and Assessment.

- 3.1 The D2JC will receive presentations on the following areas of work that are in place to support the employment and skills agenda. It should be noted that work around this agenda is not limited to these areas of work and there are other key initiatives such as Chesterfield's Apprenticeship Town and work sponsored through the SPF, that provide key contributions.

- 3.2 Updates on the following three key areas of provision will be shared at the meeting, alongside a more general overview, including opportunities provided through the proposed EMCCA:

- **Adult Careers Service:** This service provides residents with impartial information, advice and guidance about career opportunities, learning and employment.
- **Youth Hub – YES (Youth Employment Support):** The county is currently hosting two physical youth hubs, working in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions. The popularity and demand for the services of the Youth Hubs is increasing and there is scope to roll out provision further, subject to funding.

- **Apprenticeship Levy Transfer:** Local authorities are able to transfer some of the apprenticeship levy to Derbyshire businesses to create apprenticeship opportunities. Derbyshire County Council will present an overview of its approach and current levels of achievement

3.3 The Committee should note that the proposed EMCCA will be in receipt of £53m devolved Adult Education Budget (to be spent on adult education provision) and circa £3m Free Courses for Jobs provision. Whilst this funding will be ring-fenced to these areas, there is scope within the devolved landscape to work with DWP on designing more targeted routes to employment that meet the economic challenges of the D2 area. A discussion around the wider skills and employment needs will be brokered at the meeting to help shape future work packages within the EMCCA.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 That the D2JC Leaders:

- a) **Note the content of the presentations and acknowledge their achievement to date**
- b) **Note, specifically, the role the retained business rates fund has played in contributing to the delivery of the Youth Hubs and the value of access to non-ringfenced investment funding.**
- c) **Considers and advises on the skills and employment programmes which would be worthy of taking into the wider EMCCA discussions and pipeline for investment.**

D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

**UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS ON D2 RETAINED BUSINESS
RATES PILOT FUND**

(1) Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides a comprehensive update on the Retained Business Rates pooled fund that is currently managed by the Joint Committee, including progress against key strands of spend, setting out change requests for previously approved allocations and confirmation of the total funds remaining.
- 1.2 The report also sets out the changing context regarding the development of a new Strategic Leadership Board (SLB) and the proposed transfer of the remaining Retained Business Rates to the new SLB Joint Committee

2.0 Discussion/Decision Required by the Meeting

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- a) **Discuss the current position and strong progress made on all areas of spend supported by the retained business rates fund and note the quantum of available, remaining funds**
- b) **Consider and agree the best approach for dealing with the change requests for the Economic Growth Fund**
- c) **Make a decision on the proposed transfer of the remainder Retained Business Rates to the new Strategic Leadership Board to support on-going work**

(3) Information and Analysis Update

- 3.1 Members will recall that back in 2018, D2 was successful in its bid to become a retained business rate (RBR) pilot. Through negotiation with Government, the total value of the pilot fund was approximately £27m and s151 officers from across the 10 local authorities agreed the approach for dissemination, with 70% of the monies being retained by the individual authorities and approximately 30% (£7.3 million) being aligned to support economic growth under the strategic direction of the D2 Joint Committee.

3.2 The Committee commissioned economic development leads from across the D2 authorities to develop proposals for the allocation and management of the £7.3m fund. The approach was based primarily on an 'invest to generate' model set within the clear context of helping drive further economic growth across the county; agreed objectives for use of the fund were to:

- Ensure the pilot demonstrates alignment to the original business case – focused on Derbyshire's economic profile and mix of SMEs/ tier 1 industries, employment rate and growth potential.
- Utilise the fund on an 'invest to generate' basis to bring about greater business rate benefit either quicker or to a greater extent..
- Protect, support and retain existing businesses alongside generating/ attracting new business.
- Fund projects that other funding programmes broadly, do not reach – which may include supporting some longer-term projects with potentially indirect benefits.
- Create a methodology that will assess 'what uplift in business rates the project/ proposal will deliver' and endorse Green Book principles.
- Ensure maturity, flexibility and proportionality in the application of any assessment criteria, depending on the size and nature of projects – and is mature and flexible enough to cope with different sorts of projects.
- Ensure a good geographical spread of projects across the county and across the rural/ urban dynamic so that all areas benefit from growth and enhanced business rate returns.
- Make sure the 'right things got done', rather than creating a framework that only promotes/ supports certain types of projects. This includes using the fund to address some elements of current market failure

3.3 Since this time, the economic development leads (led primarily through the Business and Economy Workstream) have developed and delivered a number of proposals, utilising the Retained Business Rates (RBR) fund. This Joint Committee has received a number of intermittent reports regarding such proposals and progress on spend against the RBR.

3.4 This report, and complementary reports on the agenda, provides the most up to date position on these programmes of work and highlights the value of non-ringfenced investment funds in responding to economic conditions and supporting growth. As proposals for the East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA) continue to progress, the Committee may wish to consider whether there is value and scope

for creating a similar investment fund or work programmes as part of any new arrangements.

3.5 In summary, the £7.3m RBR has been used to fund a total of 23 projects. Initially, it was intended the Economic Growth Fund programme would be the sole recipient of the RBR but under-spend against the programme has provided opportunities for other work to be funded.

3.6 The table below provides an overview of the allocations and spend profile to date for each of the programmes and projects funded by the RBR. The remainder of this report deals with the RBR Economic Growth Fund which has provided support to a programme of capital works across the D2 geography; other reports on the Committee's agenda provide similar updates.

Economic Growth Fund

Programme/ Project Area	Original Allocation	Contracted Spend
• Strand 1: Business support	£1.418m	£1.282m
• Strand 2: Enabling Future Delivery	£0.886m	£0.658
• Strand 3: Impact	£4.9m	£3.2m
Total	£7.386m	£5.14m

Other Workstreams- additional commitments from main allocation

Programme/ Project Area	Allocation	Spend to date
Business Start Up	£1m Additional £0.245m confirmed Sept 2023	£0.753m
Business Festivals	£0.043m	£0.043m
Renewable Energy study	£0.013m	£0.013m
Total	£1.3m	£0.809m

Economic Growth Fund

- 3.8 In May 2018, this Joint Committee agreed to establish an initial £8.2m (figures later confirmed as £7.3m) Economic Growth Fund focused around three strands of work made up of the following:
- **Business support grant – £1.418m scheme** offering grants between £2,000 and £25,000 and managed by Derby City. The scheme has sought to support existing D2 businesses to survive, expand, evolve or relocate, helping create increased investment, job creation and business rates across the county and city. It was considered this area of activity would not duplicate contemporary grant schemes but would provide an alternative source of funding to SMEs where smaller capital and revenue grants are required.
 - **Enabling Future Delivery – £0.886m ‘enabling fund’**, managed by Derbyshire County Council, to grant monies that bring forward well-considered and deliverable projects capable of providing an uplift to business rates in future years. Essentially, focused on pump priming future development, including feasibility studies and other pre compliance work. Importantly, this strand has funded work that other grants streams weren’t able to support i.e. early stages of business case development. No upper or lower limit of grant was set for this strand.
 - **Economic Impact – £4.9m strand**, managed by Derbyshire County Council, focused on supporting direct business rate retention or uplift. Mostly capital projects (assessed around ‘green book’ appraisals) that have an obvious, direct impact on business rate uplift and those which are likely to be equally important but where economic impact is not direct (e.g. improvements to quality of place and ensuring attractiveness to inward investment) and therefore have a more challenging test on return on investment.
- 3.9 An Investment Panel was established made up of senior officers from across the D2 local authorities to consider the grant applications for Strands 2 and 3; this was managed by Derbyshire County Council and supported by an external, independent assessor. In relation to Strand 1, Derby City managed the grant application process and also put in place and independent assessment process. Due to the allocations having been completed, these assessment panels haven’t met for some time.

3.10 The remainder of this report focuses on the achievements of the projects allocated funding through Strands 1, 2 and 3 of the Economic Growth Fund and sets out a number of projects where requests for funding changes/extensions are being put forward by the applicant.

Strand 1: Derbyshire Business Support Grant Scheme

3.11 The objective of this £1.481m Strand was to support existing D2 businesses to survive, expand or relocate. The grant scheme was targeted at helping create increased investment, job creation and business rates across the county and city. The level of grant available to individual businesses was between £2,000 and £50,000.

3.12 The original scheme timeframe was extended in response to business hesitancy either because of Brexit or Covid and therefore ran from 2019 to 2021. The scheme paid out the final grant award in March 2021. When the scheme closed the total amount paid out in grants, plus the management and administration costs for the scheme totalled £1,110,173. The outputs achieved included:

- Number of Business Supported - 47
- Job Creation – 115 FTE
- Private Sector Leverage - £2,031,525
- Turnover Growth - £3,934,524

3.13 The value of grants came to £958,121 with the following value for money metrics confirmed:

- Cost per job - £8,331
- For every £1 spent £2 of private sector money was invested
- Turnover growth increased by £3.9m across the 2+ years of the project. This was constrained as operation of the grant scheme ran at the time of the pandemic therefore many businesses were closed or offered a much-reduced service / sales during this period.

3.14 In January 2020, it was agreed to allocate £171,819 of underspend in this Strand to extend delivery of the D2 Business Starter Programme (D2BSP), delivered by the East Midlands Chamber. The programme extension focused on more deprived areas in D2 that consistently have a lower-than-average level of entrepreneurship and self-employment and aimed to help residents develop their skills and confidence and test their business ideas.

3.15 D2BSP clients had access to the following services delivered in a flexible way to meet the individual needs of the clients, in community-based settings across Derby and Derbyshire:

- A Programme of dedicated workshops
- One-to-one coaching and mentoring
- Events, business surgeries & networking
- Facilitated peer networking support through a private Facebook community

3.16 The cost to fund Phase 2 from 1 September 2020 to 31 March 2022 was £256,446. A contribution of £84,627 was provided by East Midlands Chamber with the remaining £171,819 funded from the allocated retained business rates pot.

3.17 The following outputs were contracted through a Service Level Agreement between Derby City Council and East Midlands Chamber:

- 180 new residents registered and receiving support
- 60 new start-up businesses created
- 80 new jobs created

3.18 The learning and outcomes from these programmes have been taken forward where possible into respective Shared Prosperity Fund programmes across the D2 area.

Strand 2: Enabling Future Delivery

3.19 The table below provides an overview of the total amount of activity against this strand of funding, followed by a position statement in respect of the individual projects.

Number of Projects	Funding Contracted	Funding Expenditure	Funding remaining for projects not yet complete	Underspend
13	£658,150	£448,145.81*	£25,444*	£154,561**

**Currently no update from Connecting Growth Derby project*

£25k of approval waiting from JC

In relation to the underspend amount, all money has been previously allocated but not yet spent or needed to be spent (project has come in under allocation)

3.20 Project Updates are provided in the table below:

Lead Authority	Allocated	Spend	Comments
<u>Eckington and Killamarsh Locality Reviews</u>			
<u>NEDDC</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>35,587</u>	Completed. Locality Reviews completed for Eckington and Killamarsh. Led to Council funding further works on both town centres to create full Masterplans. Eckington Masterplan was used as the basis for a LUF Round 2 bid.
<u>Dales Central Area Workspace</u>			
<u>DDDC</u>	<u>18,000</u>	<u>7,740</u>	Not complete. Consultancy work on Feasibility Study remains on hold. Landholder engagement restarted August 2023 and progressing. Development appraisal reflecting abnormal costs still to be agreed between applicant and DV
<u>Coalite Innovation Park Feasibility Study</u>			
<u>BDC</u>	<u>31,500</u>	<u>30,688</u>	Completed. Feasibility Study completed. Study to be used to help ongoing marketing and development of the Coalite site and will help deliver on the identified objectives: Accelerate delivery of an Innovation Park; Create circa 1,500 new jobs; Address matters relating to phasing, deliverability and funding of Innovation Park.
<u>Glossop Gateway</u>			
<u>HPBC</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>34,597.78</u>	Not complete. Masterplan element of the project was completed by Aecom in December 2020. However, the Local Impact Report for Highways England element has not been fully completed and is still in draft (done in January 2022). This is on hold until the DCO application is resolved. This has been challenged with a court hearing in October 2023.
<u>Creswell Station</u>			
<u>BDC</u>	<u>13,500</u>	<u>13.351</u>	Completed. Final study completed. Study was to examine the possibility of using the disused Creswell Station as a Business Centre. Public funding is required to bring the project forward. The completed study will be used to help inform future funding applications.
<u>South Normanton</u>			

<u>BDC</u>	<u>13,500</u>	<u>0</u>	Not complete. Original Feasibility Study to create a public space in the Market Square. Concerns were raised about traffic. In March 2022 approval given to use money to fund shopfront improvements in South Normanton, which would deliver approximately 7 shops improved. In October 2023 BDC received approximately £20k of Arts Council funding for a feasibility study to create a Creative Hub. This would need an assessment of the current state of the creative industry sector in the district. A consultant for this has been identified. Change request: BDC request to use the funding for this piece of work
<u>DRIVE</u>			
<u>CBC</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>45,000</u>	Completed. Feasibility Study completed. Project has progressed and now forms part of the Staveley Town Deal delivery plan. Project is currently at RIBA stage 4, with an expected completion date of October 2025.
<u>Development of Land for incubation and start up</u>			
<u>AVBC</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	Completed. Feasibility Study Concluded in September 2020. Study looked at 2 sites for potential incubation units. Site A - the developer moved forward with a different scheme. Site B had protracted legal and environmental factors that meant it could not be brought forward. Therefore, the Feasibility Study could not recommend a site
Lead Authority	Allocated	Spent	Update
<u>Visit, sleep, cycle, repeat</u>			
<u>DCC</u>	<u>27,000</u>	<u>17,219</u>	Not complete. A consultant has been procured to undertake study. Study delayed due to Covid-19 pandemic. Study re-started in June 2022 with marketing workshops related to the creation of green triangle. Consultees provided a mixed response and some partners have begun to market on their own. Marketing work to be completed by March 2024
<u>South Derby Growth Zone</u>			
<u>Derby City</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>150,000</u>	Completed. Funding part contributed to the development of a Housing Infrastructure Fund

			(HIF) business case to deliver SDGZ/IGV including a new A50 junction connecting Infinity Park with IGV housing. Unfortunately, the HIF app was unsuccessful, but the project has since gone on to secure £49.6m of Levelling Up funding subject to completion of a further business case. A slight change to the project has seen Celanese Urban Village being repurposed to become Smartparc food manufacturing, distribution and logistics.
Connecting Growth, Derby			
<u>Derby City</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>TBC</u>	<u>TBC</u>
Infinity Park, Derby			
<u>Derby City</u>	<u>185,000</u>	<u>49,462</u>	Completed. All work on the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (NAMRC) is completed with the Centre now completed and occupied. In lieu of a skills needs assessment, and in response to a massive growth in skills demand for the nuclear sector, the iHub has been repurposed as the Nuclear Skills Academy. Derby CC have begun work on iHub Phase II and are in the process of acquiring a site for the building. They propose that the remaining BRRP money is used to fund a feasibility study for this.
Ilkeston Gateway and Flood Risk Mitigation Assessment			
<u>EBC</u>	<u>34,650</u>	<u>34,500</u>	Completed. The final report was completed and delivered in March 2020. The study analysed flood risks in an enlarged study area and was successfully able to identify a preferred option for a flood mitigation scheme. The ultimate aim of the study was to unlock potential employment land in the Ilkeston Gateway Area.

Strand 3 – Delivering Economic Impact (nominal allocation of £5.6m)

3.21 The table below provides an overview of the current financial position

Number of Projects	Funding Contracted	Funding Expenditure	Funding remaining for projects not yet complete	Underspend
8	£3,203,424	£2,198,296	£683,491	£321,637

3.22 Project Updates are provided in the table below:

Lead Authority	Allocated	Spent	Update
Buxton Crescent			
HPBC	750,000	750,000	Completed. Hotel opened May 2021 comprising accommodation, spa, venue for events and a visitor information point and visitor attraction, 6 small boutique shop units. The University of Derby was providing Spa Management courses at the Hotel, but these have been stopped since 2022, due to a change in how the industry recognises qualifications. Construction of the site recorded 1,954 inducted to work on site and 1.2m person hours on site. The project has developed strong links with Chatsworth House.
Shirebrook shop front grant			
BDC	375,000	60,000	Not completed. By December 2022, a total of 4 businesses had received grants. In Jan 2023, BDC revisited the application process and streamlined it. Further 7 shops are in the process of having new frontages installed, with a combined spend between the 7 of £140,000, which will be claimed by end of March 2024. Change request: BDC proposing the scheme is extended to December 2024, and the underspend of £174,383 is used to fund the extension. Originally, the project aimed to undertake 50 shop front improvements. To date, 11 either have been completed or are in progress.
Chesterfield RHOC			
CBC	1,050,000	841,179	Not completed. Project aims to bring significant improvements to the Market Place in town centre. Since receiving the BRRP

			grant, CBC has made a successful Levelling Up bid, which has provided an additional £10m to the project and significantly expanded its scope and timeframes. The project is still being delivered and is currently at RIBA stage 4. CBC expects to go out to tender for contractors in December 2023, with work to start on site June 2024 and completed July 2025. The second element of the BRRP project included improvements to Elderway, Knifemithgate and Packers Row - all completed by September 2023. Current total combined project spend is £841,178.77 Change request: CBC is requesting an extension to the project to October 2025.
Swadlincote Depot			
SDDC	63,750	63,750	Completed. Original project was for the demolition works on the Swadlincote Depot site. This was amended to also include clearance works of redundant buildings on the Civic Hub site. Both sets of activity were completed in March 2020. Changes made to the end user. Originally, to be a mixed use development site, but changed to become 3 storey care home which opened in May 2022 and 8 x 2 bed retirement buildings. Most of the food and drink proposals met elsewhere in town.
De-carbonise			
County and City	224,904	224,904	Completed, Project was a partnership between Derby City and Derbyshire County Councils to provide a scheme that would provide both energy audits and de-carbonise funding to businesses in the area. Scheme has now closed and has achieved/ over achieved on all outputs. Outputs= providing 326 Energy Audits, saving 986 tonnes of carbon, awarding 125 grants to SMEs, saving SMEs £523k in energy costs and providing 2,049kWh of approved energy generating capacity. Scheme ended 31st March 2022.
Cathedral Green			
Derby City	319,770	319,770	Not started. Original project was to support development of office space within city centre. The project was delayed by Covid

			<p>which also presented challenges to the demand for such space. Led to Derby City cancelling the project in its original form. Change request: Council is now looking to spend the project on 2 alternative projects. The first is to find and develop the relationship with a development partner for the regeneration of key flagship areas. The second is the Market Hall Transformation Project.</p>
Retail diversification Project Make and Trade Zone			
Derby City	350,000	49,713	<p>Not completed. Feasibility Study was completed in September 2021, aligned to a D2N2 call for pipeline projects. Unfortunately, D2N2 did not receive expected capital funding. Delays due to the Covid and staffing changes have impacted the launch of the grant scheme aimed at creative tenants who are leaseholders to renovate/refurbish premises for their needs. This launched in October 2023 and has so far approved one grant of £30,000. The scheme aims to create 10 new artist studio spaces and support 30 creatives annually. Change request: Derby City is requesting an extension to the funding for this grant scheme.</p>
Visit, Sleep, Cycle Repeat 2			
DCC	70,000	68,133.04	<p>Completed. A total of four consultants were appointed to undertake four separate feasibility studies - Pleasley Hub Study, Accessibility Audit, Trails Audit and Camping Pod Study. The last was delayed slightly but all four were completed by the end of 2022. All 4 support the ongoing development of the Visit, Sleep, Cycle, Repeat programme, and are an important part of the emerging Business Case.</p>

Change Requests

3.23 Based on the above update, a number of projects are proposing change requests – either to timescales, outputs or funding. In summary, these are:

- Dales Central Area Workspace – request that remaining expenditure of £10,260 is extended to the end of quarter 2 in 2024/25 (September 2024).
- Shirebrook Shopfront Grant Scheme – request that the project is extended to the end of December 2024, and that the remaining underspend of £174,383 is used to fund the extension. Request that outputs are altered to allow 9 shop front schemes to be undertaken during the extension.
- Chesterfield RHOC – request that the project underspend and timeframe for expenditure is extended to October 2025, to align with the timeframes for Levelling Up.
- Retail Diversification Project Make and Trade Zone – requesting that the project underspend and timeframe for expenditure is extended to December 2024. Project will create 10 artist studios and support 30 creatives.
- South Normanton – request the project is allowed to be changed to fund a creative sector assessment study to assist an Arts Council project to undertake a feasibility study for a Creative Hub. Request for timescale extension - allocation still £13,500.
- Infinity Park Derby – request that the underspend from the project of £135,538 is used to fund a feasibility study for the iHub Phase 2 project. Request for timescale extension.
- Cathedral Green – request the project is changed to fund 2 alternative projects instead – obtaining a strategic development partner for key regeneration sites in the city (approximately £280,000) with the remaining funding being put towards a launch fund for a Market Hall Transformation Project. Requested that the project is extended to March 2025.

3.24 In total, the above requests represent a significant change to the funding allocations, timescales and scope of work originally approved so it is proposed the assessment panel be reconvened to undertake the assessment and provide recommendations back the Joint Committee (or new Strategic Leadership Board) in the new year. The panel is usually made up of senior officers so a chief executive representative is sought

to chair the panel, along with a number of other colleagues. Independent assessment will also be re-commissioned.

- 3.25 Having regard to the current level of flux in the delivery of some projects and requests for change, the current financial position of the RBR pool is as follows:

Activity	Value
Remaining Balance	£687,289
Underspends strand 2	£154,561
Underspends strand 3	£321,637
Sub total:	£1,163,487
Request for change request for projects	-£429,038
Total	£734,449

NB: This is assuming the timescales are extended for the projects listed above and they retain the allocation that was given to them.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee:

- Notes the current position and strong progress made on all areas of spend supported by the retained business rates fund.
- Notes the total spend and quantum of remaining funds currently estimated to be available across Strands 1, 2 and 3.
- Agrees the Assessment Panel be reconvened to consider the change requests for Strands 2 and 3 as set out in section 3 of the report and receive recommendations from the Panel at the next appropriate Committee meeting.
- Agrees to nominate a chief executive to chair the assessment panel and up to three other senior officers to support Derbyshire County Council in completing the assessment process.
- Agrees that an independent assessor be procured to assist the assessment process.
- Agree that any remaining funds from the Retained Business Rates pool be transferred to the new Strategic Leadership Board to support forward work, subject to such work being aligned to the original objectives of the RBR.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

**Creating New Governance Arrangements for the
Derby and Derbyshire Geography: Dissolving the D2 Joint Committee for
Economic Prosperity**

(1) Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the proposals and timescales for formally dissolving the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity and to outline the next steps required to create a new Strategic Leadership Board.
- 1.2 For members to consider the proposed draft Articles and Terms of Reference for a new joint committee and governance arrangements, following the Committee's earlier considerations in July and September 2023, to ensure continuation of the necessary strategic work.

(2) Discussion/ Decision Required by the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Economic Prosperity Committee (D2JC)

- 2.1 **The Joint Committee is required to consider the proposals set out in this report and make a decision on whether to progress with dissolving the current arrangements.**

(3) Information and Assessment

Context

- 3.1 The Derby and Derbyshire (D2) Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity was formally established in the Autumn of 2013 with membership constituted of the leaders of each of the 10 D2 local authorities:

- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Erewash Borough Council

- High Peak Borough Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- South Derbyshire District Council

- 3.2 Since this time, the Committee has met frequently, originally on a monthly and now bi-monthly basis leading a range of strategic programmes to drive economic prosperity across the D2 geography. Key achievements and successes have been reported to the Committee and include (but are not limited to): establishment of a D2 investment pipeline; leadership of economic recovery from the COVID pandemic, targeted work on key sectors such as minerals/ quarrying, rural economy and low carbon transport; oversight on inward investment activity; skills and employment; support to businesses, development of key strategies (growth strategies, skills and employment, transport plans etc); delivery of regeneration programmes; and, management of the retained business rates pool and associated programmes. The development of strategic approaches in response to Government policies such as the Freeport, HS2 and combined authorities have also been considered, agreed and implemented through this D2 Joint Committee.
- 3.3 By way of exemplifying its achievement, the Committee will consider complementary update reports in relation to strategic skills & employment activity, alongside a report on the retained business rates at its meeting on 14 December.
- 3.4 More recently, the work of this D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity has been undertaken in tandem with the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee (constituted of a smaller group of D2 local authorities: Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and High Peak Borough Council) with a number of programmes such as support for business start-ups, the Festival of Business, development of Climate Change Strategy and new Planning Policy Guidance overlapping the work of the two committees.
- 3.5 The East Midlands Devolution Deal, signed and published on 30 August 2022, and the development of the proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) are potentially changing the context in which local councils work and it is important to ensure that Derbyshire remains well positioned to maximise the benefits from the Deal in relation to our economic and sustainable growth priorities. Getting the interface right with the proposed CCA, if it proceeds, will be critical to success.

Current Position: Review of Arrangements

- 3.6 The Committee will recall that a review of existing governance arrangements has taken place over the course of this calendar year, with the roles and responsibilities of the Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP), the Derbyshire Economic Recovery Board (DERB) and this Economic Prosperity Committee being considered by the review. *(NB: a similar review of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee has taken place over the same period)*. Consultation with business representation organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire, as well as major businesses, universities and colleges took place as part of the review process.
- 3.7 Outputs from the review were shared with the Joint Committee at meetings in July and September 2023 and, in summary, confirmed the need to rationalise governance arrangements and requested that any new arrangements have a clear programme of work whilst being flexible enough to pick up new/ emerging themes. The Joint Committee agreed that the broad scope of activity for the new arrangements should reflect the economic challenges of the geography which are: skills and training; inward investment; investor development; sector development; economic development; strategy development; regeneration delivery; low carbon; strategic discussions on land use policy; and preparation for the proposed EMCCA.
- 3.8 At separate meetings on 28 September 2023, this Joint Committee and the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee received reports which approved in principle, the merging of the two separate committees, the DEP and the DERB and establishment of a single, new joint committee for the D2 geography. In respect of arrangements to support economic growth, the creation of two distinct arenas were proposed within which issues could be explored, debated and decided upon: the first was a D2 Strategic Leadership Board, supported by a complementary D2 Business Advisory Panel* (*name to be finalised).
- 3.9 The remainder of this report deals with proposals that set out the formalities of closing down the D2 Economic Prosperity Committee. It also outlines the likely next steps for establishing the new Strategic Leadership Board and supporting arrangements.

Proposals

- 3.10 As the purpose of the new Strategic Leadership Board is primarily to avoid duplication, along with increasing efficiency, streamlining decision making and ensuring the new arrangements are inclusive and facilitate collaborative working across, the two existing joint committees need to be formally dis-solved. Although this has been tacitly agreed at previous

meetings, formal recommendations now need to be put forward and approved.

- 3.11 It is therefore proposed that this Joint Committee be dissolved and that all the current work and responsibilities of the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity (as set out in its original terms of reference agreed in September 2013 and summarised in paragraph 3.7 above) be carried forward into the new arrangements and included in the terms of reference and/ or articles for the new Strategic Leadership Board. *(NB: a separate meeting of the VDJC will take place on 14 December to deal with a similar set of proposals and recommendations for consideration).*
- 3.12 In summary, the role of the Board will be to determine its priorities, agenda and forward programme and it will have the ability to take decisions and discharge functions in relation to the agreed areas of work where a collective approach will achieve the best results and where single points of decision making are considered most effective. It should be noted that whilst it is proposed the new Board will have the ability to take decisions on agreed functions delegated to it, these will be concurrent with constituent councils' functions and will not to fetter the discretion of each council in the discharge of its own functions or in determining its own priorities. For avoidance of doubt, no authority represented on the Board will be able to participate in voting on, or discharging, a function for which it has no responsibility in law. *(NB: this is similar to the roles and responsibilities of the current EPC).*
- 3.13 The Committee will have already noted the update report on the programme of work delivered through the Retained Business Rates pot earlier on the agenda. Specifically, it is proposed that responsibility for overseeing spend on the remainder pot of funding be transferred to the new Strategic Leadership Board. The Committee is advised that spend against the RRB will need to be aligned to projects and proposals that support economic growth and/ or help sustain or increase the generation of business rates in the D2 geography, in line with Government's original criteria for the retained funding.
- 3.14 In preparation for the new joint committee, articles and terms of reference have been prepared for consideration (see Appendix 1). A short 'Guide to the Board' is attached at Appendix 2; the purpose of the latter is to provide a simple, accessible description of the Board's ambition and functions and how it will work in practice.
- 3.15 These are available as draft documents and views on their content is welcomed through discussion at the meeting on 14 December 2023; it is

proposed that any such documents be signed off at the first, formal meeting of the new Strategic Leadership Board.

3.16 In summary, the documents have been crafted using non-technical language as far as possible and articulate the overall ambition for the Board. It is considered the draft documents provide a sufficiently robust and flexible framework for the Strategic Leadership Board to operate as the future decision-making body for matters where the councils choose to work collaboratively:

- Providing collective leadership for Derbyshire
- Progressing shared ambitions for the area (with the aim of delivering improved, joined up local outcomes for residents)
- Working together to tackle common issues and challenges
- Enabling resources to be co-ordinated to enhance effective, clear, transparent and accountable decision making

3.17 Should the application for the proposed EMCCA be successful, it is anticipated that the new Strategic Leadership Board will have a supporting role for the EMCCA. If so, the Terms of Reference will be amended as necessary to articulate the nature of this relationship at the appropriate time.

Conclusion

3.18 In conclusion, it is proposed that members of this Committee agree to formally dissolve the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity. It is noted this is part of the journey towards establishing revised governance arrangements that are proposed to include a formal Strategic Leadership Board and associated supporting arrangements.

3.19 Comments and suggested amendments are invited in relation to the draft Terms of Reference with a view to the final version being signed off at the first meeting of the new Board.

3.20 Prior to any such Board meeting taking place, each constituent member of this Committee and the proposed Strategic Leadership Board will need to seek approval to establish the new Board through their respective decision-making processes, including consideration of the draft Articles and Terms of Reference attached to this report (or as subsequently amended).

3.21 To aid the approval process, a template report is being produced and will be made available for use by each council so that decisions can be progressed concurrently. It is proposed that councils be invited to

dissolve the existing arrangements (D2 EPC and VDJC (as appropriate)) and establish the new Strategic Leadership Board) as early as possible in the new year; the inaugural meeting of the new Board to be scheduled accordingly.

4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 In preparing this report, other matters have been given due consideration:

- **Alternative options:** the alternative to not dissolving the two separate committees and merging into a single, strategic decision-making arrangement is that duplication and inefficiency will continue and that opportunities to develop and consolidate approaches to tackling issues and challenges will be lost. This is not considered to be the most efficient or effective arrangements to undertake the functions of this Committee as described within the report.
- **Finance:** On establishment of the EPC, it was agreed that Derbyshire County Council would cover the administrative costs of the Committee. The costs of delivering areas of work in the workplan were agreed to be met by the local authority leading that work, unless the Committee agreed otherwise. Specifically, the EPC has responsibility for managing the Retained Business Rate pool. A separate update report has confirmed that the vast majority of the available funding has been spent on a number of successful projects, including capital grant and feasibility schemes, business start up support and the business festivals. Approximately £700,000 of the retained business rates remains and it is proposed this sum (or any such final sum that is confirmed) be transferred to the new Strategic Leadership Board and absorbed into its responsibilities. Spend against the remainder sum will need to be aligned to projects and proposals that support economic growth and/ or help sustain or increase the generation of business rates in the D2 geography, in line with Government's original criteria for the retained funding.
- Nine of the ten local authorities (not Derby City) currently support activity through the Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP). Although the DEP Board has now been stood down following completion of the review, the work programme of the DEP has effectively continued through the EPC. Going forward, this work will be delivered and resourced as appropriate through the new Board – e.g. through application of the retained business rates.
- **Legal:** The power to create the EPC was provided under section 6 of Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009,

supported by Government guidance from 2010. Within the original terms of reference for the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity no specific provision was made for its winding up or cessation of membership; however, it is advised that the body that approved the establishment of the committee would be the same body that would approve its disestablishment – cabinet, full council or policy committee as appropriate to each authority.

- **Human Resources:** A revision of current governance arrangements which looks to merge, collapse and/or revise existing committees and boards into a more streamlined structure will reduce duplication and support the most effective use of staff resources and the work of elected members.
- **Climate Change:** no direct implications, although the proposed Strategic Leadership Board is envisaged as a more effective arrangement for cross Derbyshire collaboration and leadership of the Climate Change agenda.
- **Equality and Diversity:** there are no Equality and Diversity issues relating to this decision.

5. Recommendations

5.1 That each constituent member of the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity:

- a) Agrees to the dissolution of the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity**
- b) Agrees that responsibility for managing the business of the current D2 Committee transfers to the new joint committee – including responsibility for the retained business rates fund - once the current D2 Joint Committee has been dissolved.**
- c) Provides comments and amendments as appropriate to the draft Terms of Reference and articles attached at Appendix 1.**
- d) Notes that the proposed Articles, procedures and Terms of Reference for the new Strategic Leadership Board will subsequently be put to the new Board for agreement.**
- e) Agrees that a report will be put to each constituent Council to consider the creation of a new joint committee as described within this report in accordance with their own governance arrangements.**

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 For Constituent Councils to consider the dissolution of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Note the positive impact that the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee has made since its establishment on the 4 April 2022.
- 2.2 Approve the dissolution of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee.
- 2.3 Agree that arrangements for managing the remaining residual business of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee be delegated to the proposed new Joint Committee once the Committees are dissolved.
- 2.4 Carry forward the decision for ratification by constituent member councils.

3 Reason for recommendations

- 3.17 To ensure that the governance across the County is inclusive, streamlined, fit for purpose and can work collaboratively across a range of issues.
- 3.18 To rationalise governance arrangements that will otherwise duplicate the business envisaged as being undertaken by the successor body, the D2 Strategic Leadership Board.

4 Report details

Background

- 4.17 On the 4 April 2022, the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee was established by the current full member authorities Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and High Peak Borough Council.
- 4.18 Since that time the Joint Committee has convened seven times and there have been a number of achievements over this time of which Councils can be proud. These include providing leadership and driving forward the Vision Derbyshire Business Development programme, two annual Festivals of Business, the development of the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy and shaping Planning Policy Guidance. The creation of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee itself, and demonstrating such arrangements can work successfully as the basis for future collaboration moving forward, has been a significant achievement.

4.19 The East Midlands Devolution Deal, signed and published on 30 August 2022 and the development of the proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) are changing the context in which local councils work and it is important to ensure that the Vision Derbyshire approach continues to evolve to ensure that Derbyshire remains well positioned to maximise the benefits from the Deal as it moves into implementation. Getting the interface right with the proposed CCA will be critical to success.

4.20 Extensive consultation has taken place with partners and key stakeholders on a revised approach to collaborative working in Derby and Derbyshire. Since July 2023 the Committee has received a number of reports on the future of the Vision Derbyshire and members have indicated their desire for a refreshed and fully inclusive approach to collaborative working.

4.21 On 28 September 2023, the D2 Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) and this Joint Committee received reports which approved in principle the establishment of a new Joint Committee for Derby and Derbyshire, the Strategic Leadership Board. This Joint Committee is envisaged as a merger and reworking of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee and D2 EPC to provide more streamlined and effective leadership across agreed agendas, whilst additionally anticipating the role and types of functions necessary to support the sub-regional delivery of a County Deal.

4.22 As a consequence of this merger, it is recommended that the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee is dissolved, for the purposes of establishing the Strategic Leadership Board.

4.23 It is proposed that arrangements for managing the remaining residual business of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee be referred to the D2 Strategic Leadership Board once the Committee is dissolved. It will be for the D2 Strategic Leadership Board, once established, to agree to its programme of work moving forward.

Next steps

4.24 All members being in agreement with the proposed decision, this will need carrying forward by constituent member councils.

4.25 A template report has been produced to support Derby and Derbyshire councils with the process of dissolving the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee and establishing the Strategic Leadership Board so that these decisions can be progressed concurrently.

5.0 Alternative options

5.1 Not reviewing governance arrangements and continuing with the existing approach. This is not considered to be the most efficient or effective arrangements to undertake the functions of this Committee as described within the report.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

6.1 Upon the Joint Committee's establishment, the constituent authorities agreed to a pooled programme resource budget of £331,400, contributions as follows:

- Derbyshire County Council £174,350
- Derbyshire Dales District Council £52,350
- High Peak Borough Council £52,350
- Chesterfield Borough Council £52,350

6.2 As at the dissolution of this Committee no commitments to this budget were made. There are no outstanding financial liabilities and therefore constituent Councils exiting this arrangement need to pay no outstanding amount to cover their share of the liability. The surplus outstanding funding will be returned to the constituent authorities on the basis from which they paid in.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

7.1 Within the articles of the Joint Committee, 'Section 9 – Winding up of the Joint Committee and Cessation of Membership', on behalf of the participating authorities, the Joint Committee may be wound up immediately by a unanimous vote of all constituent authorities.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human Resources

8.1 A revision of current governance arrangements which looks to merge, collapse and/or revise existing committees and boards into a more streamlined structure will reduce duplication and support more effective working by elected members and Officers.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change

9.1 No direct implications – though the proposed Strategic Leadership Board is envisaged as a more effective arrangement for cross Derbyshire collaboration and leadership of the Climate Change agenda.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and Diversity

10.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues relating to this decision.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Risk Management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Document information

Report author
Robert Lowe
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

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**THE DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE
STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP BOARD**

[Draft] TERMS OF REFERENCE

ARTICLES

1. Introduction and Context

1.1 The **Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board** (D2 SLB) brings together the County's ten local authorities in what is a **joint committee** with a refreshed and fully inclusive approach to collaborative working across existing and new partnership activity. D2 SLB will:

- Provide collective leadership for Derby and Derbyshire, ensuring our authorities are heard to speak with a single, shared voice at the county, regional and national level;
- Collaborate as partners to develop joined-up approaches to the complex, connected and sometimes challenging agendas where our councils share common interests; and additionally
- Progress shared ambitions for the area, co-ordinating resources better and more sustainably.

1.2 Bringing a new interface between councils and new opportunities to improve outcomes for people and places throughout Derby and Derbyshire, the agendas it makes sense to co-ordinate at the County level that are envisaged as becoming the remit of D2 SLB include economic development, skills, health and wellbeing, transport and the environment and potentially wider agendas where there is common recognition in the value of tackling challenges together.

1.3 In particular the D2 SLB will:

- Achieve joined up approaches within and between a variety of **shared policy agendas and service delivery agendas**, including but not restricted to place and economic development;
- Rationalise and **simplify existing partnership and governance arrangements** related to these areas (with agreement that the work of existing County level committees (including the Vision Derbyshire Committee, the D2 Economic Policy Committee together with the Growth Board will be superseded by a single Derby and Derbyshire-wide partnership arrangement); and

- If a new Combined County Authority, as currently being proposed, is established then it is anticipated that this Joint Committee will be used for discussion between Derby and Derbyshire authorities feeding into that new decision making arena as required.

1.4 In this context, the overall ambition of D2 SLB is to mature into a truly authoritative and representative partnership of all Derby and Derbyshire councils while duly acknowledging the sovereignty of participating Councils and recognising that each will have separate as well as shared interests in partnership working, including a choice about whether or not to participate in this new venture.

Guiding Principles for the D2 SLB

1.5 The joint committee will provide:-

- Strong collective leadership and seek to deliver better local outcomes and more joined-up public services
- Clear, transparent and accountable decision-making which will ensure best value for taxpayers' money and maintain strong ethical standards
- An inclusive model of governance across an appropriate geographical footprint in Derby and Derbyshire
- Flexibility to work across organisational boundaries to deal with strategic and emergent challenges whilst maintaining local control

1.6 It is envisaged that collaboration and decision making based on these principles will enable Derby and Derbyshire's local authorities to tackle challenges at regional, county and local place levels more effectively.

1.7 The D2 SLB will act as the responsible decision-making body for functions delegated to it by participating Councils within Derby and Derbyshire and, accordingly, membership of the D2 SLB will comprise councillors appointed by those participating authorities. Councils may choose to appoint members to the D2 SLB while not delegating decision-making responsibilities for functions. However, all participating authorities, whether or not agreeing to delegate functions, will be required to contribute towards the costs of funding the D2 SLB.

1.8 Councils participating in the D2 SLB are committed to the provision of improved services. It is considered that this will, in certain instances, be best achieved by the joint provision of services, joint working and/or the development of common standards and protocols. All proposals for the setting up of any new services or the discharge of functions are in the first instance to be subject to an investigation into the suitability of providing such services or discharging such functions, as a joint service for all participating Councils.

2. Membership of the D2 SLB

- 2.1 All local authorities within the Derby and Derbyshire are invited to join the D2 SLB as constituent members (subject to agreement by respective councils) namely:
- Derbyshire County Council
 - Derby City Council
 - Amber Valley Borough Council
 - Bolsover District Council
 - Chesterfield Borough Council
 - Derbyshire Dales District Council
 - Erewash Borough Council
 - High Peak Borough Council
 - North-East Derbyshire District Council
 - South Derbyshire District Council
- 2.2 All participating councils within Derby and Derbyshire will be permitted to appoint one elected member to the D2 SLB and to nominate one elected member as a substitute, whether or not they are delegating functions to the D2 SLB.
- 2.3 A Substitute Member will have the same rights to receive meeting papers and to access information as the Member for whom s/he is a substitute.
- 2.4 All appointments as Members or Substitute Members of the D2 SLB shall be for a term of one year from the Annual Meeting, but an individual may be re-appointed to serve as a Member or Substitute Member any number of times.
- 2.5 All councils shall be entitled at any time to terminate the appointment of a Member or Substitute Member appointed by it and to appoint another of its Elected Members in that person's place. Where a Council exercises this power it shall give written notice of the new appointment and the termination of the previous appointment to the Monitoring Officer responsible for the D2 SLB and the new appointment shall take effect from the point specified in the written notice.
- 2.6 Should a change of political control occur at a participating local authority, usually arising from local elections, it will be for that local authority to confirm any changes in appointments to the D2 SLB's membership in accordance with the constitutional arrangements of that Council. A Member or Substitute Member of the D2 SLB who ceases (for whatever reason) to be an Elected Member of the Council that appointed them shall immediately cease to be a Member or Substitute Member of the D2 SLB,

and the relevant Council shall as soon as practicable give written notice of this to the Monitoring Officer responsible for the D2 SLB and appoint another of its Elected Members in that person's place.

- 2.7 A person may resign as a Member or Substitute Member of the D2 SLB by written notice served on the Proper Officer of the Council that appointed them and the resignation shall take effect on receipt of the notice by the Proper Officer. The relevant Council shall as soon as practicable give written notice of this to the Monitoring Officer responsible for the D2 SLB and appoint another of its Elected Members in that person's place.
- 2.8 Where an appointing Council operates executive arrangements (within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2000), the appointment, removal and replacement of Members and Substitute Members of the D2 SLB shall be decided in accordance with the constitutional requirements of that Council, but it is anticipated that all Members and Substitute Members appointed by it shall be Members of its executive and will include its executive leader or elected mayor.
- 2.9 All appointments, removals and replacements of Members and Substitute Members of the D2 SLB by Councils shall be made by notice in writing addressed to the Monitoring Officer responsible for the D2 SLB. Any such notice shall be deemed to have been given when received by the Monitoring Officer.
- 2.10 Any individual council that does not operate executive arrangements and that wishes to co-opt an additional member or members can only do so following consultation with and a majority vote of all voting members of the Joint Committee and shall have no voting rights. An individual's co-option shall terminate as soon as her/his involvement with the organisation that gave rise to the co-option ceases; and such co-option shall be endorsed annually by the Joint Committee and subsequently confirmed formally by the appointing authority.
- 2.11 All Members of the D2 SLB (including any Substitute Members acting in place of Members of the D2 SLB) will:
- a) (subject to the D2 SLB's voting arrangements) collectively be the ultimate policy makers of the D2 SLB;
 - b) bring views of their Councils into the D2 SLB's decision-making process; and
 - c) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

- 2.12 Members will at all times observe the Code of Conduct for Members in force in their own Council and any breaches will be reported to the Monitoring Officer of their own Council.
- 2.13 No remuneration shall be payable to D2 SLB Members other than allowances for travel and subsistence in accordance with the Members' Allowances Schemes in operation at participating Councils. (It is acknowledged that a participating Council may, in accordance with its own procedures, pay a special responsibility allowance to any Elected Member appointed by it to the D2 SLB in respect of duties and responsibilities undertaken as a Member or Substitute Member of the D2 SLB.)

3 Chairing the D2 SLB

- 3.1 The Chair of the D2 SLB will be appointed by the D2 SLB.
- 3.2 In the event that there are more than two Members nominated for the role of Chair, and there is not a clear majority of votes in favour of one Member, then the name of the Member with the least number of votes will be eliminated and that process will continue until a Chair is elected with a majority of votes.
- 3.3 The D2 SLB will appoint a Vice-Chair to deputise for the Chair when the latter is not present or available.
- 3.4 In the event that there are more than two Members nominated for the role of Vice-Chair, and there is not a clear majority of votes in favour of one Member, then the name of the Member with the least number of votes will be eliminated and that process will continue until a Vice-Chair is elected with a majority of votes.
- 3.5 The Chair or Vice-Chair of the D2 SLB will cease to hold such office when they cease to be a Member of the D2 SLB, in accordance with the provisions set out at paragraphs 2.6 to 3.7 above.

4. Procedural Arrangements

- 4.1 The D2 SLB shall meet in accordance with its agreed calendar of meetings throughout a municipal year, but additional meetings may take place should the need arise.
- 4.2 Each Member of the D2 SLB shall have one vote, other than in the following circumstances:

- a) where matters reserved to upper tier authorities are to be discharged, eg. functions that are reserved to county and unitary authorities;
- b) where matters reserved to lower tier authorities are to be discharged, eg. functions that are reserved to borough, district and unitary authorities;
- c) where matters reserved to specific geographies are to be discharged, eg functions that are reserved to Derbyshire councils only
- d) where matters are reserved in a combination of the above are to be discharged, eg. functions in Derbyshire that are reserved to borough and district councils only

In such circumstances Members from authorities that have no remit will not be entitled to vote.

- 4.3 The proceedings of the D2 SLB shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among its Members or Substitute Members or by any defect in the appointment or qualifications of any Member or Substitute Member.

5. Records of Proceedings

- 5.1 The D2 SLB shall make arrangements for the names of Members and Substitute Members present at any meeting to be recorded.
- 5.2 Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the D2 SLB, or any sub-committee, shall be kept in such form as the D2 SLB may determine.
- 5.3 Any such minutes are to be agreed as a true record and signed at the same or next suitable meeting of the D2 SLB or sub-committee by the Member chairing that meeting.
- 5.4 A Member of the D2 SLB, or any sub-committee, has the right to have their vote on any matter recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the vote was cast.
- 5.5 Minutes of all minutes will be published on the websites of all participating Councils.

6. Sub-Committee

- 6.1 The D2 SLB may establish such sub-committees as it thinks fit to discharge its functions.

7. Officers

- 7.1 The Section 151 Officer (appointed under Section 73 of the Local Government Act 1975) and Monitoring Officer (appointed under section

5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) of the host authority for the D2 SLB will serve as the statutory officers in support of the D2 SLB.

- 7.2 The D2 SLB may call upon any officer of any of the local authorities who have members on the D2 SLB for advice and assistance, as it considers necessary to carry out its functions.

8. Scrutiny of decisions

- 8.1 Each constituent authority which operates executive arrangements will be able to scrutinise the decisions of the D2 SLB in accordance with that constituent authority's overview and scrutiny arrangements. Any authority that operates a committee system model of governance will have the discretion to scrutinise decisions of the D2 SLB according to its own specific governance arrangements.

9 Winding up of the D2 SLB and Cessation of Membership

- 9.1 The D2 SLB may be wound up immediately by a unanimous vote of all constituent authorities.
- 9.2 Where an authority determines through its own governance arrangements that it no longer wishes to be a member of the D2 SLB, that authority may cease its membership with effect from the date of its decision. However, authorities will remain liable for any previously agreed financial contributions until the end of the financial year for which those contributions have been agreed regardless of any decision to cease membership. Where long term liabilities, such as any Pension Fund shortfall, exists they will be calculated at the point membership ceases and any council exiting the arrangement will pay the host authority an amount to cover their share of that liability.

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The D2 SLB is established pursuant to Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, which permits local authorities to make arrangements for two or more authorities to discharge functions jointly, so long as it is a function that the law reserves to a specified committee. The D2 SLB is established for the following purposes:
- Provide collective strategic leadership for local government in Derby and Derbyshire
 - Drive forward shared ambition and collective priorities for local government across Derby and Derbyshire

- Improve joint working across local government in Derby and Derbyshire
 - Form a collective view on matters impacting Derby and Derbyshire
 - Enable agile, timely and effective decision making.
- b. The D2 SLB, on behalf of the participating authorities, will be responsible for improving the delivery of functions already within the remit of local authorities through statute or through specific collaborative work to improve the economic, environmental or social wellbeing of the areas within Derby and Derbyshire from the following broad definitions:
- Incorporating existing partnership arrangements
 - Areas for collaborative system changes across authorities
 - Specific thematic projects and priorities
- c. Within those broad definitions, the D2 SLB will:
- i) Provide a forum for consideration of opportunities for joint working across Derby and Derbyshire
 - ii) Provide or assume democratic oversight for existing joint committee and partnership arrangements
 - iii) Determine the prioritisation of issues affecting Derby and Derbyshire to influence commissioning at a regional level
 - iv) Determine commissioning arrangements on matters for which funding is provided on a sub-regional basis
 - v) In particular, act as the local public sector decision-making body for strategic economic development across Derby and Derbyshire (including potential alignment of resources, commissioning, and performance / contract management) in respect of
 - (a) Skills and training
 - (b) Inward Investment
 - (c) Investor Development
 - (d) Sector Development
 - (e) Regeneration Delivery
 - (f) Climate Change and Low carbon

(g) Supporting debates on Land Use policy

- vi) Own, monitor and review the Derbyshire Growth Plans and associated investment plans
 - vii) Act as the accountable body for decision making on funding streams allocated to the D2 SLB by other bodies
 - viii) Oversee the planning, alignment and performance of delivery partners and organisations to achieve more effective and efficient commissioning [monitoring and implementation] and ultimately better outcomes
 - ix) Maintain an ongoing dialogue with the Derbyshire business community through the relevant Economic Advisory Boards
 - x) Hold to account relevant bodies whose work impacts on the economic well-being of Derbyshire
 - xi) Determine the programme of projects and work streams, how those will be managed and communicated to stakeholders and the public
 - xii) Monitor and review performance in respect of services delivered in partnership through the D2 SLB and authorise the publication of an annual report of performance and outcomes
 - xiii) Commission strategic outline and full business cases for individual councils to consider opportunities for more collaborative working
 - xiv) Determine requests from individual authorities or groups of authorities to work collaboratively on specific projects or work streams
 - xv) Provide a forum for councils and their representatives to provide challenge to each other with the aim of increasing collaboration to deliver efficient, effective and economic services, which equally improve the offer and outcomes to residents and businesses
 - xvi) Delegate functions and responsibilities to sub-committees or officers as the D2 SLB deems appropriate and keep any governance arrangements associated with the D2 SLB under review.
- d. The D2 SLB will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and these terms of reference and procedure rules.

e. The authorities appointing to the D2 SLB are:

- Derbyshire County Council
- Derby City Council
- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Erewash Borough Council
- High Peak Borough Council
- North-East Derbyshire District Council
- South Derbyshire District Council

[MEMBERSHIP TO BE AGREED BY RESPECTIVE AUTHORITIES]

f. It is for individual Councils participating in the D2 SLB to determine which functions and responsibilities they are willing to delegate to the D2 SLB in accordance with their own decision-making arrangements. Conversely, the D2 SLB in determining its agenda, priorities and forward programme will wish to take a view on whether or not to accept such responsibilities.

g. No authority represented on the D2 SLB may participate in voting upon or discharging a function for which it has no responsibility in law.

---- *Ends* ----

A short guide to the D2 Strategic Leadership Board (D2SLB)

a) Aims and ambitions – what is it; and why should my council join?

D2SLB is exactly as its name implies, a **leadership board**, bringing together Derby and Derbyshire's ten councils to lead and direct existing and new partnership agendas and activity:

- Providing collective **leadership for Derby and Derbyshire**, ensuring our authorities speak with a single, shared voice at the county, regional and national level;
- Collaborating as partners to develop **joined-up approaches** to the complex, connected and challenging agendas where our councils share common interests; and
- Progressing **shared ambitions** for the people and places of Derbyshire, making decisions together to improve services and co-ordinate resources better and more sustainably.

All local authorities within Derby and Derbyshire are invited to join D2SLB as constituent members and to play a full part in co-ordinating and driving agendas where it is recognised and agreed that more can be achieved for all our localities, and for Derbyshire as a whole, by our councils **working together**.

Those agendas will incorporate the remits of the dissolved D2 Economic Prosperity and Vision Derbyshire Joint Committees – including, **'place', regeneration, broader economic development, business and skills, and transport**, and strengthening the focus of wider agendas including **climate and the environment, and health and wellbeing**.

Legally, the Strategic Leadership Board will be constituted as a **'Joint Committee'**. This means that, with decision making powers delegated to it by its constituent member councils, the Board will be empowered to jointly discharge and to exercise functions on their behalf within its agreed remit. (A Joint Committee is one comprising two or more councils established for the joint discharge of any functions of those councils in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, s101.)

A further consideration behind the proposed Strategic Leadership Board is the possible establishment of a Combined County Authority for the East Midlands, which will bring new opportunities to improve outcomes for people and places throughout Derbyshire. In the event the CCA is established, it makes sense for D2 councils to come together to manage their interface with the new authority

which is envisaged as having a key role in determining agendas, such an investment programme and adult education strategy for the East Midlands region. All Derby and Derbyshire's councils will have a stake in these agendas and shaping these effectively will be made more possible by doing so together.

b) Functions – what will it do; what is my Council agreeing to, getting from it; and giving up?

The D2 Strategic Leadership Board is intended to:

- achieve joined up approaches within and between **shared policy and service delivery agendas**, in the first instance, place, growth, regeneration and economic development – including business support, inward investment, skills and transport;
- rationalise and **simplify existing partnership and governance arrangements** related to these areas (with agreement that the work of existing County level committees (including the Vision Derbyshire Committee, the D2 Economic Prosperity Committee together with the proposed D2 Growth Board will be superseded by a single Derbyshire-wide partnership arrangement); and
- provide a possible forum for collaborative activity between councils in Derbyshire on matters relating to the anticipated new **Combined County Authority**, to generate and secure collective influence, especially concerning investment and growth strategies.

By joining, Derby and Derbyshire's councils are, first, signalling their intention to work together in the provision of improved services for Derby and Derbyshire's residents and the general betterment of the city and county; and secondly, councils are enabling the Strategic Leadership Board to act as the responsible decision-making body for such functions as those identified above that are conferred upon it by participating councils.

The County's local authorities have, therefore, nothing to lose and everything to gain from membership of the Strategic Leadership Board. The hope is that their active commitment and participation will allow the Board to mature into a truly authoritative, representative and collaborative partnership of all Derbyshire councils – while duly acknowledging the sovereignty of participating councils and recognising that each will have separate as well as shared interests in partnership working. This includes a choice about whether or not to participate in specific agendas (or indeed whether or not to participate at all).

c) Arrangements – how it will work in practice; how is my Council assured of getting a say?

Within the remit conferred upon it by participating Councils, it will be for the Board itself to determine its agenda and priorities, forward programme of activities together with the frequency of its meetings and working methods.

In doing so, the Board's guiding principles will be:

- Strong collective leadership which seeks to deliver better local outcomes and more joined-up public services
- Clear, transparent and accountable decision-making which will ensure best value for taxpayers' money and maintain strong ethical standards
- An inclusive model of governance reflecting the geographical footprint of Derbyshire
- Flexibility to work across organisational boundaries to deal with strategic and emergent challenges whilst maintaining local control; and last but not least
- Decision making by consensus.

Membership of the Board will comprise councillors from participating councils who will each be enabled to **appoint one Elected Member and one substitute**.

Although it is assumed that Councils joining the Strategic Leadership Board will wish to delegate responsibilities for collective decision making in respect of agreed agendas identified above, whether or not Councils choose to do so is entirely a matter for them. Membership and participation by all Derbyshire's councils is welcome, including by councils who choose not to confer responsibilities in the way that is envisaged and who instead choose to retain full, separate local control.

While the Board is envisaged as reaching decisions on the basis of consensus, formally, should there be circumstances where a vote is called for, no authority represented on the Board will be empowered to vote on or to discharge a function belonging to another for which it has no responsibility in law. Accordingly, the **Terms of Reference are drafted to ensure safeguards** are in place regarding Councils' discharge of their own statutory and non-statutory responsibilities.

All participating authorities, whether or not agreeing to delegate functions, will be required to contribute towards the costs of funding the Board. **It is proposed that the County Council will act as host Authority for the Board.**

Strategy and Policy, November 2023

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D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Update on D2 Employment and Skills Services

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To provide the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity (D2JC) with an update on the current state of progress of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA).

2.0 Discussion/Decision Required by the Derbyshire Joint Economic Prosperity Committee (D2JC)

2.1 **The Joint Committee is requested to:**

- a) **Consider and discuss the information presented at the meeting and confirm the next steps for engagement of all local authorities.**

3.0 Information and Assessment.

3.1 The Committee will be aware of the general progress being made in the preparation of the EMCCA. Most notably, by the date of the meeting, all relevant authorities will have considered reports to 'consent to the creation of the East Midlands Combined County Authority'.

3.2 The Committee will also be aware that potential representative local authorities were identified (exempt item, meeting of September 2023 refers) to participate in wider EMCCA governance structures should the proposals go ahead.

3.3 The agenda for the Joint Committee meeting on 14 December has focused on updates around key projects and programmes within the D2 geography that are currently adding value in helping to address economic and wellbeing challenges.

3.4 If the EMCCA goes ahead as planned, there will be opportunity for these projects and programmes to become part of the authority's investment pipeline.

3.5 The Committee will receive a verbal update on current state of play and the next steps at the meeting.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 **That the D2 Joint Committee:**

- a) Notes the content of this covering report and that a verbal update will be provided at the Committee meeting.**
- b) That Committee members undertake a discussion regarding next steps and work needed to influence the continued development of the proposed EMCCA arrangements as appropriate.**

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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