

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

East Midlands Combined County Authority: Progress To Date And Next Steps

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a summary of progress to date and next steps on the creation of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA).

2.0 Discussion/Decision Required

- 2.1 The D2 Joint Committee is asked to note recent progress on this issue, in particular the launch of the public consultation.

3.0 Overview

- 3.1 As reported to this Committee at previous meetings, Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council (to be known as the 'Constituent Councils') agreed a 'Devolution Deal' with Government on 30 August 2022. This Deal will be ratified, subject to a series of condition, including legislation and the results of a public consultation.
- 3.2 Each of the Constituent Councils above has now approved a Proposal for consultation, which will take place from 14 November 2022 to 9 January 2023. The Proposal being consulted on is set out in Appendix 1. The consultation questionnaire is at <https://www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk/have-your-say/>. In addition, a series of engagement events are planned, with stakeholders across the region. All residents, businesses and other stakeholders, including seldom heard groups, are encouraged to participate in order to shape the future of the EMCCA.
- 3.3 Following consultation, a formal Proposal will be presented to Government in order to inform the passage of legislation. Subject to this legislation being in place, the EMCCA will be brought into being in May 2024.

4.0 Issues and Considerations

4.1 The Proposal on devolution provides a unique opportunity for the EMCCA to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the people who live and work in the area.

It identifies **four priorities** for the EMCCA to focus on:

1. **Our homes** – we will work with local authorities, landowners, developers and the full range of housing providers to create affordable, good quality housing options and to retrofit existing homes to be more environmentally sustainable.
2. **Our skills** - we will work collaboratively with employers, skill providers and local authorities to ensure our citizens have the opportunity to develop key skills and access opportunities to work well and build fulfilling careers. This will also help the creation of a strong and sustainable local economy.
3. **Our transport** - we will work with transport providers inside and outside the EMCCA Area to develop our collective infrastructure and create the best possible public transport system for our citizens, reflecting the strengths already within the four Councils to set our aspirations.
4. **Our net zero ambition** – we will work across the Area to lead the way in moving from fossil to fusion and play our part in achieving our national ambition to achieve net zero by 2050. Our ambition is that the EMCCA Area will be a leader in pioneering new forms of clean energy generation and will act as an exemplar for climate change adaptation.

4.2 The proposition sets out the following benefits of the deal:

- **£38 million** per annum over the next 30 years - with a total guaranteed funding stream of **£1.14 billion** to help level up the Area.
- The ability for **local voices to play a greater role** in setting and delivering to the Area's priorities.
- Local control over a range of budgets like the Adult Education Budget, so that we can **target our spend** to the needs of people in our communities.
- Local powers to **tackle challenges specific to our Area** and harness its true economic potential, for the benefit of everyone who lives and works here.
- A new Mayor for the Area to give us **a bigger voice, more influence, and a higher profile** to make a strong case to the Government for more investment in the Area.

- Working more effectively on a larger scale across council boundaries, further **strengthening partnership working across and between our counties and cities.**

It is also made clear that the deal would **not** mean removing or merging local councils. Each council would continue to exist and would still be responsible for most public services in the area.

4.3 The Proposal contains a clear proposition for governance of the EMCCA, which sets out that it will have up to 17 Members in total, comprising:

- The directly elected Mayor;
- 8 Constituent Members (Members appointed by the Constituent Councils, with each Constituent Council appointing 2 Members);
- 4 Non-Constituent Members nominated by the District and Borough Councils within the Area (with 2 Non-Constituent Members to be nominated by Derbyshire District and Borough Councils, and 2 Non-Constituent Members to be nominated by Nottinghamshire District and Borough Councils);
- Up to four further Non-Constituent or Associate Members. These four further Memberships will not be nominated/appointed to initially. It will be for the CCA to determine whether the four additional Memberships will be used, and if so, what interests those Memberships should seek to represent on the MCCA.

4.4 In parallel, work continues on preparing for the creation of the EMCCA by May 2024, including:

- Creating a Shadow Combined Authority by April 2023 to pave the way for the Combined Authority
- Ensuring effective governance for the EMCCA in line with the principles agreed in the deal and ensuring an effective voice for Districts and Boroughs
- Engaging with Government on the legislation required
- Defining in more detail how the powers and functions to be held by the Combined Authority will be delivered in practice.

4.5 The work is being led by the Leaders of the four Upper Tier authorities (Derbyshire, Derby, Nottinghamshire, Nottingham) supported by their Chief Officers. Work is coordinated through a Programme Group of Chief Executives/Senior Officers which includes representatives of District and Boroughs (Huw Bowen of Chesterfield Borough Council represents D2) and the Chief Executive of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 That the D2 Joint Committee:

- a) Notes progress made to date on the creation of the East Midlands Combined County Authority, in particular the public consultation.
- b) Supports efforts to ensure that the consultation is promoted as widely as possible within the area.