

# DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

### VISION DERBYSHIRE - UPDATE ON APPROACH

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the agreed changes to the overall approach of Vision Derbyshire and the implications for the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity.

#### **2.0 Discussion/Decision Required by the Meeting**

- 2.1 **Discuss the proposed and agreed changes to the Vision Derbyshire approach and the strategic implications for the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity.**
- 2.2 **Discuss the proposal to progress new governance arrangements through a single framework for Derbyshire Councils to be formally agreed at a future meeting.**

#### **3.0 Information and Analysis**

##### Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on the 20 July 2023, the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee (VDJC) agreed a series of proposals which marked a significant change to the overall approach. These proposals were agreed following a series of recommendations made to the VDJC, through an independent light touch review report completed by East Midlands Councils.
- 3.2 The review was undertaken as a direct response to the emergence and progression of the Devolution Deal and the new East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority (EMCCA) for the region.
- 3.3 Members of the committee will be aware that at the meeting of the D2 Joint Committee on 8 June 2023, it was also agreed that new governance arrangements were necessary, capable of providing a strategic steer to drive the growth agenda across the D2 geography and ensuring there is clarity of priorities and objectives prior to the East Midlands Combined Authority being formally established.

- 3.4 Having regard to the above, it was agreed the work, purpose and terms of reference of the following Boards be evaluated as part of the wider governance review:
- The Derbyshire Economic Recovery Board (DERB)
  - The Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP)
  - The D2 Joint Committee
  - The Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee
- 3.5 These reviews have provided a key opportunity to re-engage partners in Derbyshire across our overall approaches and to determine the most appropriate sub-regional governance arrangements, which are critical to ensure that Derbyshire is well positioned to maximise the benefits from the Devolution Deal as it moves into implementation.

#### Vision Derbyshire proposals and agreed changes

- 3.6 The VDJC on 20 July 2023 welcomed the East Midlands Councils report's findings and recommendations, in particular the clear recognition that the Vision Derbyshire objectives of collaboration and joint working remained relevant and worthy and that the approach had helped to lock together the county and district and borough relationships with shared ownership and equal partnership.
- 3.7 The VDJC however recognised that it had been clear for some time that the central issue and challenge of the approach was that only a limited number of councils were participating members and it was imperative that steps were taken to 'refresh' arrangements in a way that would develop and agree an approach which allowed for all Derbyshire Councils to become participating members in the future.
- 3.8 The VDJC agreed to a series of changes, which had been developed to progress the implementation of recommendations by East Midlands Councils as follows:
- The existing Vision Derbyshire principles be refreshed and aligned to the emerging East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) to be a fundamental basis for the revised approach.
  - The Vision Derbyshire brand be retired and replaced by 'Derbyshire Strategic Leadership'.
  - The Vision Derbyshire thematic delivery programme be revised and aligned to the thematic areas of the EMCCA (Appendix A) and new Leads be appointed with an updated work programme for formal agreement at a future meeting.
  - A phased approach for securing dedicated programme resource for Vision Derbyshire, including the appointment of a programme team, be adopted.

- Funding for the programme for the remainder of the 2023/24 period be met by Derbyshire County Council.
- In principle, funding for the total programme resource for the 2024/25 period be met by Derbyshire County Council and other Councils through redirecting current Derbyshire Economic Partnership funding and retained business rate pool funding.

3.9 It is anticipated that these proposals will ensure the is collective agreement on the establishment of a refreshed and fully inclusive approach to collaborative working in Derbyshire and ensure that the future approach aligns with proposals for the EMCCA. It is expected that the new approach will be fully implemented before the combined authority is formally established.

#### New governance arrangements

3.10 In a separate report to the same VDJC on the 20 July 2023, it was also agreed in principle, following a review of governance arrangements, to formally work towards establishing a new single governance framework for Derbyshire Councils.

3.11 The emergence of the EMCCA has created additional governance structures with which Councils need to engage and as this committee has discussed previously, it is crucial that Councils in Derbyshire can position themselves to align local arrangements to the EMCCA and ensure that the benefits of the combined authority are optimised for the county. A mechanism for political appointments onto the EMCCA is also required in the future.

3.12 Any new sub-regional governance needs to support the maturation and continued collaborative working which has been developed through the D2 EPC, DEP, Economic Recovery Board and Vision Derbyshire approach. It is important that councils feel they have a voice in new arrangements and the positives of current ways of working are not lost in the process.

3.13 There have been ongoing concerns raised about the proliferation of partnership arrangements discussing similar or identical issues and agreement that streamlining and rationalisation is necessary to simplify arrangements and reduce the bureaucratic burden on all authorities moving forward.

3.14 This committee has also recognised the need to reduce the number of boards and level of duplication within the current arrangements, and agreed on 8 June 2023 to create two distinct arenas within which issues can be explored, debated and decided: a D2 Growth Board attended by

all 10 local authority leaders and a complementary D2 Business Board\* attended by a representatives from key business and education and skills organisations (\*name to be determined). It was considered these arrangements reflected those in the emerging East Midlands Combined Authority and provided a strong platform for corralling the 'D2 voice'.

- 3.15 Alongside the proposals for a Growth Board, it was also proposed and agreed at the VDJC that the current governance and partnership arrangements in Derbyshire are merged, collapsed and/or revised into a more streamlined and effective structure, whilst also anticipating the role and types of functions necessary to support the sub-regional delivery of a Devolution/County Deal.
- 3.16 In anticipation of the potential implications for such an approach on this committee and recognising the efforts of both committees to proactively work to prepare for the EMCCA, work activity has taken place with appropriate officers to bring together the relevant reviews and identified solutions. This has captured what effective decision-making arrangements are necessary to support future strategic developments across a Derbyshire footprint and has ensure that the vital work already completed has not been lost moving forward.
- 3.17 It was agreed by the VDJC on 20 July 2023 that the following actions are progressed in respect of the governance arrangements moving forward:
- The Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee and the D2 Economic Prosperity Committee should be merged into a single new framework for Derbyshire Councils, which will include a new formal decision-making committee called the Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board. The proposed structure, which was agreed in principle, can be found at Appendix B.
  - All Derbyshire Councils would be invited to be participating members of the Strategic Leadership Board and the Joint Committee would be structured to utilise part and/or split agendas to discuss and agree relevant matters and take appropriate decisions.
  - The articles, functions and responsibilities and procedural rules for the Strategic Leadership Board would be developed to reflect the drivers for collaboration and delivery priorities, whilst also providing a mechanism for political appointments onto the EMCCA.
- 3.18 It was also agreed in principle at the VDJC that the proposed D2 Growth Board and its draft Terms of Reference, with all the Derbyshire Leaders in attendance, is also merged into the Strategic Leadership Board alongside the proposed D2 business board as an appropriate advisory group in the single framework. This is further illustrated at Appendix B.

3.19 This will further reduce number of Boards, from 4 to a maximum of 2, thereby reducing duplication and ensuring best use of resources.

3.20 It was also agreed that proposals for the development and implementation of the future governance approach were phased as follows:

**Phase 1 (July 2023 – December 2023)**

- Meetings of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee and D2 EPC are aligned to support the transition to new arrangements
- Terms of Reference and Articles are developed to support the revised approach and establish a mechanism for political appointments onto the EMCCA
- Relevant committees are dissolved through the appropriate procedures
- The new Strategic Leadership Board is established and will meet in November 2023
- EMCCA issues will be discussed through the SLB in shadow arrangements

**Phase 2 (January 2024 onwards)**

- Sub-committees, sub-groups and advisory groups are developed and established when applicable aligned to the new thematic delivery programme
- Members to the EMCCA are formally appointed once the new Authority has been established
- Additional governance structures are consolidated when and where necessary in the future.

3.21 Is it recognised that not all district and borough councils are participating members of the VDJC, although they attend the meetings. Derby City Council are currently not a member of the VDJC.

3.22 Members of the D2 EPC are therefore invited to discuss the proposed changes to the Vision Derbyshire approach and the proposed single framework for Derbyshire Councils, to support the work being undertaken over Phase 1 outlined above and that any changes can ensure full involvement of all prospective participants.

**4.0 Recommendations:**

**4.1 That the D2 Joint Economic Prosperity Committee:**

- a) Notes the agreed changes to the Vision Derbyshire approach, in the context of the emerging East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA)**
- b) Considers the information presented and discusses the strategic implications of the report on the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity Committee**
- c) Considers the information presented and discusses the proposed single governance framework, the Strategic Leadership Board**
- d) Receives a future report on the final terms of reference of the Strategic Leadership Board and the strategic implications for the Committee.**

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### Appendix A – Proposed new thematic areas for the Strategic Leadership Board aligned to EMCCA themes

Vision Derbyshire Themes	County Deal Themes	New SLB Themes
Seize Innovation	Economic Development	Economic Delivery and Growth
	Business Engagement	
Establish relentless ambition	Skills	Employment and Skills
	Adult Education	
Build proactive communities	Public Health	Health and Communities
	'Beyond the deal'	Public Service Reform
Live and work sustainably	Net Zero	Climate Change
	Land and Housing	Planning and Housing

### Appendix B – Proposed new single framework for Derbyshire Councils

