

Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee Update on Programme Resource Proposals

Date:	28 September 2023
Key ambition area:	Whole Programme
Sponsors:	Emma Alexander
For publication:	Yes

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 To receive an update on progress since the last Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee (VDJC) and to consider and to agree programme resourcing proposals for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Approve revised resourcing proposals for 2023/24 and 2024/25 to ensure there is sufficient capacity to take forward agreed work programmes.

2.2 Note the ongoing commitment for funding for the programme for the remainder of the 2023/24 period to be met by Derbyshire County Council to the value of £70,161.

2.3 Agree, in principle, funding for the programme for the 2024/25 period to be met by the County Council, participating Councils through redirecting current Derbyshire Economic Partnership funding and retained Business Rate Pool funding to the value of £390,809.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

3.1 To ensure there is a collective agreement across Derbyshire Councils to establish a refreshed and fully inclusive approach to collaborative working in Derbyshire.

4.0 Report details

Background

- 4.1 The VDJC agreed a number of in principle proposals at its meeting on 20 July 2023 in respect of programme resource and future funding arrangements. The in principles proposals considered and agreed by the VDJC are summarised as follows:
- A programme team be established to provide the capacity and capability needed to develop and deliver associated work on collective priorities
 - The establishment of programme resources be phased to align with the refresh of the new approach alongside the development of the EMCCA
 - Derbyshire County Council would cover the costs of implementing Phase 1 of the approach, through the budget already committed to Vision Derbyshire in the 2023/24 period at a maximum cost of £70,161
 - Future funding arrangements beyond the 2023/24 period would look to align current Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP) funding and resources into the overall programme resource and seek a future funding contribution from the Business Rates Pool.
- 4.2 At the meeting of the VDJC it was emphasised that these agreements were committed to ‘in principle’ and that more work was necessary to clarify current positions, work towards a formalised agreed approach moving forward alongside other necessary changes to the programme.

Update and revisions on resources for programme delivery

- 4.3 Since the VDJC on 20 July 2023, work has taken place to clarify current commitments and the respective position of the different funding streams which Councils have indicated they are keen to pool and align, specifically to support plans for the resourcing of Phase 2 from 2024/25 onward. This will secure a financial commitment in the medium term for all participating councils to the newly proposed Strategic Leadership Board and its programme of work.
- 4.4 The VDJC is asked to note that there are no suggested amendments or changes to the appointments to the programme team and associated funding over Phase 1 (the 2023/24 period), which was agreed to be met by Derbyshire County Council. The County Council is currently progressing plans to recruit to the three posts agreed on 20 July 2023 and is currently working on the person profiles and job adverts for these new posts. An update on the progress of recruitment will be brought to a future meeting.
- 4.5 Conversations with districts and boroughs have been taking place on future DEP contributions and discussions have taken place with County Council

Place colleagues to better understand current DEP commitments and their implications for the programme.

4.6 Following these conversations, it was confirmed that the current DEP annual budget totals £135,000, which is £15,000 more than the original estimate presented to the VDJC in July 2023. This budget currently supports:

- Two Grade 11 Economic Development Officers
- A Project Fund

4.7 The two Economic Development Officers currently support work on skills and employment activity, inward investment and investor development, and sector development at a cost of approx. £100,000. The Project Fund of £30,000 already has an ongoing commitment of £20,000 for Mint and Tracktivity – two key databases which supports Councils in delivering key programmes of work across Derbyshire.

4.8 The inclusion of DEP funding and resource into the overall approach provides a valuable opportunity to align expertise and resource, recognising that the work of DEP officers will need to evolve and align to match the development of the Strategic Leadership Board’s programme, and that of the emerging EMCCA over coming months.

4.9 Following discussions, revised resourcing proposals has now been developed and are set out below for consideration and approval:

Phase 2 Resource	£’s (inc. Oncosts)
Programme Team	
1 x Grade 12 Programme Manager	56,623
2 x Grade 11 Economic Development Officers	101,428
2 x Grade 9 Project Officers	78,700
0.5 x Grade 9 Communications Officer	19,675
1 x Grade 6 Admin Support	29,374
Programme Team total	285,809
Programme budget	80,000
Equipment, travel, subsistence and host authority costs	15,000
Communications budget	10,000
Total	390,809

- 4.10 Proposals now see the inclusion of the two grade 11 Economic Development Officers, who are already in post, into resourcing plans. These posts replace two proposed grade 9 officer posts which formed part of the overall complement of staffing agreed by the VDJC at its meeting in July 2023 at an additional cost of £22,728, due to the differences in salary.
- 4.11 With a reduced need for central government lobbying, following the securing of the East Midlands Devolution Deal, there is also likely to be a reduced communications work programme than originally anticipated. The revised proposal therefore supports the recruitment of a 0.5 FTE rather than the previously agreed 1 FTE, which reduces the overall costs of the team and mitigates against increased costs in respect of salary differences outlined above.
- 4.12 The revised total resourcing costs for establishing the team to support phase two – from April 2024 therefore now stands at £390,809 for the 2024/2025 financial year and the VDJC are asked to approve proposals in principle to progress recruitment activity over the coming months.

Revised Future funding arrangements for the Phase 2 programme

- 4.13 At the meeting of the VDJC agreement on the funding of the programme resource was also agreed as follows:

Phase 2 Funding 24/25 (proposal)	£'s
County Council Funding (40%)	144,000
DEP Funding	120,000
Business Rate Pool Contribution	94,000
Total	358,000

- 4.14 With the additional small increase in total costs, it is recommended that the funding profile and associated financial contributions made by Councils be adjusted as follows:

Phase 2 Funding 24/25 (proposal)	£'s	Increase (£'s)
County Council Funding (40%)	156,324	12,324
DEP Funding	135,000	0
Business Rate Pool Contribution	99,485	5,485
Total	390,890	17,809

- 4.15 This proposal would ensure that funding is in place until March 2025.

- 4.16 The current Business Rates Pool stands at approx. £870,000 and the revised proposals for future resource and funding previously outlined would require a contribution of £99,485 from the Business Rate Pool for 2024/25.

Moving forward

- 4.17 Moving forward, the Strategic Leadership Board, once established, will have responsibility for the allocation of remaining Business Rate Pool funds.
- 4.18 The Strategic Leadership Board will therefore have the opportunity to consider the ongoing financial commitment of the programme resource alongside the potential requirement to support other identified project/programme commitments in the future. It is anticipated that resource and funding arrangements will be closely monitored and revisited to support work from 2025/26 onwards and will ensure arrangements reflect the developing and emerging work programme whilst remaining fit for purpose.

5 Alternative options

- 5.1 Less resource – the programme team could be made up of less officers alongside a reduced programme budget which would reduce the costs of the overall programme accordingly. This is not the preferred option as it would reduce the overall effectiveness of the team and the ability to delivery on agreed collective ambitions and priorities which it has been agreed needs appropriate capacity. The team’s size and make-up reflect other equivalent teams managing large strategic partnerships with depth and breadth of the work which falls under the proposed remit of the Strategic Leadership Board.
- 5.2 More resource – the programme team could comprise additional officers alongside an increased programme budget. This is not the preferred option as it would increase the costs of the overall programme accordingly and require a larger contribution from Derbyshire Councils. The Strategic Leadership Board, once established, will have responsibility for the allocation of remaining Business Rate Pool funds and could support the programme team further if necessary. Any such increases would be subject to agreed and established processes.

6 Implications for consideration – Financial and Value for Money

- 6.1 Derbyshire County Council will continue to cover the costs of implementing Phase 1 of the approach, through the budget already committed to Vision Derbyshire in the 2023/24 period. This will continue on the agreement that proposals for Phase 2 of the programme are agreed in principle with a commitment from all Councils for the subsequent 2024/25 period at full cost.

6.2 Proposal for meeting the required budget for the programme team outlined in is outlined below.

Phase 1 Funding 23/24	£'s
Derbyshire County Council Funding	70,161
Total	70,161

Phase 2 Funding 24/25	£'s
County Council Funding (40%)	156,324
DEP Funding	135,000
Business Rate Pool Contribution	99,485
Total	390,809

6.3 This proposal would ensure that funding therefore would be in place until March 2025 – with £99,485 shortfall beyond.

7 Implications for consideration – Legal

7.1 Within the articles of the Joint Committee, agreed at the 4 April 2022 Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee, ‘Section C’ under ‘functions and responsibilities’, oversight of the Vision Derbyshire Delivery Programme is delegated to the Joint Committee.

8 Implications for consideration – Human Resources

8.1 The host organisation will be responsible for the recruitment and hosting of the agreed Programme Team posts, and this will be in line with standard recruitment and remuneration policies.

8.2 The Programme Team, when in place, will report to their dedicated Accountability/Line Manager within Derbyshire County Council on both matters relating to their employment and operational matters relating to the delivery of the established work programme. Lead officers across the thematic accelerated delivery programme will work closely with the programme team and will also be responsible for holding team members to account by working with the Host Authority to monitor their effectiveness and flag any issues of inadequate performance, non-compliance or substandard conduct.

8.3 It is proposed that all posts will be created on a permanent basis, and as such, will be subject to the host council’s redundancy and redeployment policies and procedures.

8.4 Full Vision Derbyshire members will be asked to confirm their willingness to recognise an obligation to the postholders, through offering redeployment opportunities as appropriate, should this become necessary.

9 Implications for consideration – Climate Change

9.1 Funding for activity relating to climate change and in particular net zero ambitions is a key element and focus of a devolution deal as is the transfer of powers and flexibilities from central government to support the delivery of identified actions. A successful deal and funding from central government would be crucial in delivering the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy in meeting Derbyshire’s agreed climate change priorities and targets.

10 Implications for consideration – Equality and Diversity

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

11 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
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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