

Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee

Dissolution of the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee

Date:	14 December 2023
Key ambition area:	Whole Programme
Sponsors:	Emma Alexander
For publication:	Yes

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 Committee is dissolved.

2.4 Carry forward the decision for ratification by constituent member councils.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

3.1 To ensure that the governance across the County is inclusive, streamlined, fit for purpose and can work collaboratively across a range of issues.

3.2 To rationalise governance arrangements that will otherwise duplicate the business envisaged as being undertaken by the successor body, the D2 Strategic Leadership Board.

4.0 Report details

Background

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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, if it proceeds, will be critical to success.

4.4 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.

- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 As a consequence of this merger, it is recommended that the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee is dissolved, for the purposes of establishing the D2 Strategic Leadership Board.
- 4.7 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

- 4.8 All members being in agreement with the proposed decision, this will need carrying forward by constituent member councils.
- 4.9 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