

Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board

Partnership Team and programme resources

Date: 16 May 2024

Key ambition area: Whole Programme

Sponsor/s: Emma Alexander

For publication: Yes

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 To confirm arrangements for the establishment of the Strategic Leadership Board Partnership Team and programme resources.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That a Partnership Team and programme resources are established for the Strategic Leadership Board to the value of £425,000 as set out in the report.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

3.1 Establishing the partnership team and programme resource is critical in supporting the implementation of the Board and the Board's associated programme of work. Without the team and programme resource there will be more limited capacity to progress delivery, further develop identified programme activity and align with and support the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA).

4.0 Report details

Background

4.1 Agreement is sought following earlier consideration of plans for a Partnership Team and programme resources by the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee, the D2 Economic Prosperity Committee and individual councils, with further consideration and approval at the establishment of the Board.

Information and Analysis

4.2 There is agreement across the Board that capacity and capability, through the establishment of a Partnership Team, is needed to support the Board. The Partnership Team would be responsible for:

- Overseeing, managing and co-ordinating Board business – including servicing meetings/committees;
- Working with thematic delivery leads to identify, develop, and deliver programmes and projects across the Boards collectively agreed priorities;
- Shaping the future programme and support which aligns with the proposed EMCCA, to optimise benefits for Derbyshire.

4.3 As the host authority for the Board, Derbyshire County Council will be responsible for the establishment of the team, the implications for which can be found at Section 6.0 and 8.0 of this report. The team will be comprised of a number of permanent and temporary Partnership Team posts, to be established on the commitment of the programme budget.

4.4 The D2 Strategic Leadership Board will direct the work of the Partnership Team. The following funding streams have been identified to meet budget requirements, these being previously attributed to the Vision Derbyshire programme, the D2 EPC and the Derbyshire Economic Partnership:

Strategic Leadership Board Funding	£s
County Council Funding	175,000
Derbyshire Economic Partnership Funding	135,000
Business Rate Pool Contribution	115,000
Total	425,000

4.5 These proposals will ensure that funding is in place until March 2025, requiring no immediate additional funding commitment from Board members as they can be funded through budgets already committed to the 2024/25 period.

4.6 The current Business Rates Pool stands at £734,449 and how the Board is funded beyond the 2024/25 period will be a decision to be taken by the Board at an appropriate time.

4.7 It is recommended that D2 SLB notes and agrees to the associated costs of the Partnership Team and programme resources as set out in

this report, the maximum cost of which currently stands at £425,000 per annum.

4.8 It is recommended that the Board:

- a) Approves the establishment of the Partnership team
- b) Agrees the spend of programme resourcing as described in this report to the value of £425,000

Next steps

It will be important to ensure that the Board is in the driving seat in developing a work programme over the coming months to maximise the collaborative benefits for local authorities, local people and communities in Derbyshire.

In this context, identifying the key actions which the Board will need to undertake, and the resources and capacity required to support the Board's agenda and future collaborative working will be a priority.

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 The Board could choose not to agree the Partnership Team and ask for options to support the delivery of the SLB to be brought forward at a future meeting.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 6.1 Following the dissolution of the D2 EPC, the £734,449 remains from Retained Business Rates fund, and responsibility for overseeing the remainder of the spend has been transferred to the new D2 Strategic Leadership Board. 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.
- 6.2 The costs and contributions associated with meeting the required budget for the D2 SLB programme team are as outlined below and can in part be met from the budget already committed to the Vision Derbyshire approach in the 2023/23 and 2024/25 period.

D2 SLB Funding 24/25			Funded by		
Costs	Grade	FTE	Core DCC Budget (£)	Business Rates Pool (£)	DEP Funding (£)
Partnership Team	12	1	62,106		
	9	2.5	112,777		
	6	1		34,108	
Prog. Budget				50,000	
Team Budget				15,000	
Communications				10,000	
DEP Team	11	2			108,142
DEP Project funds					30,000
Total (£)			174,883	109,108	138,142

6.4 In its role as host authority, the Derbyshire County Council is likely to incur costs relating to the operation of the Board. These will be met from the Programme Budget.

6.5 Where an authority determines through its own governance arrangements that it no longer wishes to be a member of the Joint Committee, 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 to fund the D2 Strategic Leadership Board until the end of the financial year for which those contributions have been agreed regardless of any decision to cease membership.

6.6 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.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

7.1 Derbyshire County Council will be the employer and bear employment and recruitment responsibility for the staff appointed to support the SLB. Staff will be recruited and employed in accordance with Derbyshire County Council terms and conditions of employment and its employment policies.

7.2 In accordance with Derbyshire County Council's Constitution – Responsibility for Functions at Appendix 1, Executive Directors have the authority to appoint and manage staff subject to the Council's policies

and legislative requirements. Therefore, the Executive Director for Place will be responsible for decision-making around this staff group.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human Resources

8.1 Derbyshire County Council currently employs 2 FTE Grade 11 Senior Economic Development Officers who previously worked for the Derbyshire Economic Partnership. The current job descriptions enable them to be required to support the priorities of the D2 Strategic Leadership Board and its associated work, which would have previously agreed and commissioned by DEP.

8.2 As the host authority, Derbyshire County Council will hold additional Partnership Team posts. Recruitment to any outstanding posts will be in line with the grading criteria of the host council and their policies and procedures, as outlined below:

- 1 x Grade 12 Partnerships Manager
- 2 x Grade 9 Project Officers
- 0.5 x Grade 9 Communications Officer
- 1 x Grade 6 Admin Support.

3.3 These new posts will be created as a mixture of permanent and fixed term appointments, due to the one-off nature of a proportion of the programme funding. All posts would be subject to the host council's redundancy and redeployment policies and procedures.

3.4 All partners have confirmed their willingness to recognise an obligation to the postholders, through offering redeployment opportunities as appropriate, should this become necessary.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change

9.1 There are no Climate Change issues related to this decision.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and Diversity

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

10.0 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
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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