

Our commitment: Governance

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

We know that to achieve this ambition and improve outcomes for people and places in Derbyshire, we must have clear, strong governance which enables efficient, effective decision making.

We will use every legislative power available to provide the necessary governance to transform our services and improve our offer to local people. We believe that at the heart of the new model of local government, will be a **single Joint Committee for Derbyshire councils**, to be known as the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee.

This Joint Committee will:

- Provide **collective leadership** for Derbyshire
- Progresses **shared ambitions** for the area
- **Work together** to tackle the issues and challenges outlined in this case for change.
- Enable agile, timely and effective decision making

It is proposed that each constituent council's Leader will represent their authority on the Joint Committee. One of the first tasks of the constituent councils will be to determine which powers are to be delegated to the Joint Committee.

These new governance arrangements will demonstrate our commitment to collaboration and aims to ensure that across Derbyshire constituent members are working together to build effective solutions to and share responsibility for the challenges we face.

Effective governance is also not about just aggregating functions, Vision Derbyshire will look to ensure local services are relevant and meaningful to local people. Consideration will be given to establishing sub-committees or advisory committees at a local level, for the purpose of discharging functions at the most appropriate level.

We will be working over the coming months to detail which powers are to be delegated to the Joint Committee and to further clarify and strengthen this approach against the aims of Vision Derbyshire.

These arrangements would, as a minimum:

- Establish joint arrangements to exercise authority across all **local authorities**
- **Meet frequently** to maintain pace and momentum
- Have members appointed by each authority to ensure **accountable representation**
- Vote by a simple majority in all matters to ensure swift and **effective decision making**.

As this approach develops and the new governance arrangements begin to exercise their functions, Vision Derbyshire will look in the future to how partners can be co-opted to increase collaborative working. It will also lobby government, for the provisions of statutory powers to employ staff and hold assets and funding, like those of a Combined Authority.

Joint Committees

Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides powers for two or more local authorities to discharge functions jointly and, where they do, to arrange for the discharge of functions by a joint committee.

Establishing a joint committee can be an effective practical way for local authorities to streamline decision making, by providing for decisions to be taken by the joint committee, rather than needing to go to each individual authority for decisions.