

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

4 MARCH 2021

**PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A NON-STATUTORY STRATEGIC
PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE –
PROGRESS UPDATE, DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND
STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

(1) Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Update the D2 Joint Committee (D2JC) on the progression of joint working to deliver a non-statutory Strategic Planning Framework for Derby and Derbyshire (SPF); and
- to seek endorsement of a number of actions to progress further work on the Framework by the D2 partners.

(2) Discussion / Decision Required by the D2JC

2.1 The D2JC is recommended to discuss the progress that has been made on developing the non-statutory SPF and also the implications of the Government's Planning White Paper. The Committee is also required to make a decision on the Terms of Reference (ToR), Statement of Common Ground and opportunity for reporting the SPF to the respective planning committees or planning boards for formal endorsement.

(3) Information and Analysis

Background

3.1 The Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) is being progressed to complement the ongoing work being undertaken by D2 partners on climate change and addressing the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis through the D2 Economic Recovery Board. Additionally, through the Vision Derbyshire programme, a Climate Change and Planning Policy Work Theme is currently being progressed, sponsored by Councillor Gary Purdy (Leader of Derbyshire Dales District Council) and Julian Townsend (Chief Executive of Amber Valley Borough Council). This Vision Derbyshire work will dovetail with the SPF and provide an important context and agreed

principles for addressing the impacts of climate change through the planning process.

- 3.2 Agreement to create the SPF was provided at the D2JC meeting in June 2019. The report highlighted that the primary justification for preparation of the Framework was to address the high priority placed on strategic planning and strategic plan making by Government set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and to help partners fulfil their obligations under the 'Duty to Cooperate' and Localism Act 2011 for joint working on cross boundary strategic planning matters. It also confirmed the SPF would cover the whole of the D2 area, including the Peak District National Park Authority, and that the Joint Committee would provide the strategic oversight and governance for development and delivery of the SPF.
- 3.3 Since this time, various reports and updates have been shared with the D2 Chief Executives' Group and the D2JC outlining progress of work on the Framework, key issues and securing endorsement for next steps. This has included consideration of implications of the Government's Planning White Paper which set out proposals for major reform to the planning system but was silent on strategic planning and strategic plan making and proposed to abolish the Duty to Cooperate. Draft Terms of Reference have also been considered setting out details of key roles and responsibilities for the Joint Committee in providing strategic oversight and governance for delivery of the SPF.
- 3.4 Through discussion with the Chief Executives it was agreed there was an important role for the SPF in the reformed planning system to set out a shared statement of key, strategic objectives and priorities for all partners in how the county and city will grow in the future, providing an important context for the preparation of future local plans by partners. The draft ToR were also endorsed for presentation to the D2JC, subject to inclusion of further details of how preparation of the Framework would be resourced (see details below).
- 3.5 In addition to the above, regular progress reports on the SPF have been provided at a number of Derbyshire-wide and Housing Market Area (HMA) based officer planning policy and development management groups. Two special meetings on the SPF were also organised on 10th December 2020 and 11th February 2021 for officers of all the D2 partners to discuss the Framework in more detail.
- 3.6 Discussions at these groups has highlighted a desire by the majority of partners to report the SPF to their respective members on planning committees or planning boards, particularly to set out the background of the need to prepare the Framework; highlight its key purpose and how the

Framework aligns with their Local Plans; its potential resource implications; and to seek members' endorsement to progress further joint working to deliver the Framework.

- 3.7 Partners have also agreed that future work streams to deliver key elements of the Framework should be taken forward based on established HMA officer working groups facilitated and coordinated by the County Council and that emerging HMA growth strategies in the preparation of future Local Plan Reviews should be aligned with, and reflected in, the Framework.

Review of Progress

- 3.8 Since January 2020, a number of significant work streams have been undertaken by the D2 partners to progress the Framework, details of which are set out below.

Development of Key Strategic Emerging Themes

- 3.7 Between September 2019 and January 2020, a series of meetings took place between officers of all D2 partners to discuss the Framework in more detail and explore partners' initial thinking on what were likely to be the key strategic issues, objectives and priorities across a range of topic areas in their local authority areas and key service areas over the period 2020 to 2050. From these discussions a series of 'Emerging Themes' papers have been developed relating to Housing; Economic Development and Regeneration; Infrastructure; Climate Change and the Environment; Minerals and Waste; and Health and Well-being. These papers are currently being finalised and will be developed into a range of Topic Papers that will provide a more comprehensive analysis of the agreed key issues, objectives and priorities over the next 30 years.

Statement of Common Ground

- 3.8 Early discussions between agreed the need for a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) to be prepared to guide and underpin development of the Framework and set out key agreed principles for joint working. Since March 2020, a draft SoCG has been progressed by the D2 partners and has now been finalised (see Appendix 2). The D2JC is asked to consider the SoCG and endorse it for circulation to each of the D2 partner authorities for sign-off through their respective authorisation processes and procedures.

Agreed Joint Approach with Derby City Council

- 3.9 At its meeting on 4 June 2019, the D2JC endorsed the need for further discussions to explore the potential for the Framework to be prepared jointly as a Strategic Framework for the whole of the D2 area. At the meeting of the Chief Executives on 20 January 2020, it was agreed the Framework should be branded as the ‘Strategic Planning Framework for Derby and Derbyshire’ and that this should be subject to further consideration and agreement by Derby City Council. This issue has since been considered by the City Council and it has agreed to be a partner in the development of the Framework and branding as indicated above.

Development of Strategic Evidence Base

- 3.10 One of the key requirements to underpin development of the Framework is the need for a range of supporting evidence to inform it. Discussions have taken place regarding the strategic, county-wide evidence which is likely to be most needed to support the Framework and a list of the most important evidence has been agreed. All local authority partners have already assembled a considerable range of evidence to support the preparation of their recent and ongoing Local Plan Reviews, much of which has a time horizon of around 2034/35. The evidence has been assembled into a D2-wide Strategic Evidence Base that will inform the development of key issues, objectives and priorities in the Framework at least up to the medium-term of 2034/35. This could be supplemented by the commissioning of other county-wide strategic evidence with a longer-term time horizon up to 2050. Details are set out in the Terms of Reference. Some county-wide evidence has already been commissioned from consultants through other related strategic projects or is being developed by officers of the D2 partners that will inform the SPF.

Terms of Reference (ToR) for D2 Joint Committee

- 3.11 At its meeting on the 4 June 2019, the D2JC agreed responsibility for strategic oversight and governance for the SPF and required that a ToR be developed setting out the key roles and responsibilities for the Committee. A draft ToR has been developed jointly by the D2 partners in consultation with Derbyshire County Council’s legal services. The draft ToR have been considered by the Chief Executives (November 2020) and endorsed for presentation to the D2JC, subject to further details being included on how the Framework is proposed to be resourced. The ToR have been updated accordingly and the final draft version is included in Appendix 1 to this report for consideration and endorsement by the Joint Committee.

Branding and Development of Website to Host the Framework

3.12 Chief Executives have previously considered a range of options branding of the Framework and related, bespoke website (i.e. a joint corporate style and design) – including hosting by the County Council’s web team or by external providers. It was confirmed that bespoke branding wasn’t necessary for the Framework as long as documentation was produced under the banner of the partner authorities’ logos and that DCC would host the Framework on its website as this was the most cost-effective approach. DCC has recently started to develop the necessary webpages, including the potential to accommodate future stakeholder consultation.

Development of a Derbyshire Strategic Growth and Infrastructure Framework

3.13 In tandem with the SPF, the County Council is developing a Strategic Growth and Infrastructure Framework (SGIF) that will set out comprehensive details of all pipeline or planned projects taking place within the county that are of national, regional, sub-regional and local strategic concern, where DCC has an involvement as either a consultee, enabler (usually via transport) or delivery partner. The SGIF provides a considered approach towards the identification and prioritisation of investment to accommodate planned growth. By planning strategically, it will enable the County Council to respond to the pressure which growth exerts on the County’s infrastructure and will create a platform not only for efficient delivery but also to identify inter-relationships between projects.

3.14 The information and data within the SGIF has been drawn from a range of sources, including the Derbyshire District/Borough local plans, Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDPs) that have been prepared by the local authority partners to support preparation of their respective Local Plans, and other infrastructure and service providers. A presentation on the SGIF was given to the D2JC meeting on 3 December 2020. In conjunction with the Derby City Local Plan IDP, the SGIF is an important, complementary document to the Strategic Planning Framework.

(4) Recommendations

4.1 The D2JC is recommended to:

- i) Note the progress of further joint working by the D2 partners to deliver a non-statutory Strategic Planning Framework for Derby and Derbyshire as set out in this report;
- ii) Consider and agree a Draft Terms of Reference for the D2 Joint Committee setting out its key roles and responsibilities for providing

strategic oversight and governance for the delivery of the Strategic Planning Framework (set out in Appendix1);

- iii) Consider and agree the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) that has been developed to underpin development of the Framework and set out key principles for joint working to deliver it (set out in Appendix 2); and
- iv) Endorse the opportunity for the D2 partners to report the SPF to their respective members on planning committees or planning boards to seek their members' formal endorsement to progress further joint working to deliver the Framework.