



**OPEN REPORT  
COUNCIL**

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**Council – 25 July 2024**

## **DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP BOARD AND EAST MIDLANDS COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY - UPDATE**

### **Report of the Chief Executive**

#### **Report Author and Contact Details**

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#### **Wards Affected**

District-wide

#### **Report Summary**

To provide Council with an update on the Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board and the East Midlands Combined County Authority following the election of EMCCA Mayor Claire Ward on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 and to nominate the Council's substitute representative on the D2 Strategic Leadership Board.

#### **Recommendations**

1. That Council appoints the Deputy Leader of the Council - Cllr Bob Butcher, as the Council's substitute representative on the D2 Strategic Leadership Board.
2. That Council notes the final Terms of Reference for the D2 Strategic Leadership Board as set out at Appendix 1.
3. That Council notes the Derbyshire Dales member representatives appointed to the EMCCA Committees for 2024/25 as set out in Paragraph 2.8 of the report.

#### **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Articles, functions and procedure rules for the D2 SLB Joint Committee

#### **Background Papers**

Combined County Authority Board – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024

[Browse meetings - East Midlands Combined County Authority - Board - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024

[Browse meetings - East Midlands Combined County Authority - Board - Derbyshire County Council](#)

**Consideration of report by Council or other committee**

No

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from Press or Public**

No

# **Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board and East Midlands Combined County Authority - Update**

## **1. Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board Update**

- 1.1 At the meeting of Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Members considered the draft the Terms of Reference for the Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board and approved its active participation in the Strategic Leadership Board. The Leader of the Council - Cllr Steve Flitter, was appointed as the Council's representative on the Strategic Leadership Board with the then Deputy Leader, Cllr. Peter Slack as a substitute. Following changes in the Councils political leadership, it is proposed the Cllr. Bob Butcher is nominated as the Council's substitute for 2024/25.
- 1.2 On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, Claire Ward was elected Mayor for the East Midlands Combined County Authority.
- 1.3 At a first post-election meeting of the Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024, the leader of North East Derbyshire – Cllr. Nigel Barker was appointed to the role of Chair by the Board. The Leader of Derbyshire County Council had previously held the role of Chair for both predecessor boards - the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee and the D2 Economic Prosperity Committee. Derbyshire County Council was also the host authority.
- 1.4 In taking the decision to elect a new Leader as Chair, the County Council consider that district and borough councils have signalled their intention to assume control of the agenda and provide new leadership and direction for the Board. Whilst this is a legitimate position for member councils to take in relation to the agreed Terms of Reference for the Board, the County Council have subsequently resolved to withdraw its previously agreed role as host authority and remove funding of up to £175,000 which would have provided support towards the establishment of the proposed programme team. Whilst the County Council continues to be a member of the SLB with the delegated functions as set out in the functions and Responsibilities document in Appendix 1, they intend to keep their ongoing membership under review to ensure it remains aligned with the plans and aspirations of the county.
- 1.5 The Board and its members are currently exploring different funding and/or operational models to provide the necessary resources to the Board and its workstreams. Further updating reports will be brought to council as necessary.
- 1.6 At the Board meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May, the proposed articles, procedures and terms of reference previously considered at Council in January 2024, were formally endorsed with no substantive changes. These are reproduced at Appendix 1.
- 1.7 The SLB also agreed to be the formal nominating body for the two appointments from non-constituent members to represent all Districts and Boroughs in Derbyshire on the EMCCA Board. In this regard, Derbyshire Districts and Boroughs are to be represented by Cllr. Tricia Gilby (Leader – Chesterfield Borough Council) and Cllr. Anthony McKeown (Leader – High Peak Borough Council) until May 2025.

## 2 East Midlands Combined County Authority Update

- 2.1 The EMCCA Board comprises two elected constituent members and two substitute members from each constituent council (Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council).
- 2.2 The D2 Strategic Leadership Board (Derbyshire) and the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (Nottinghamshire) are the nominating bodies for District and Borough non-constituent representation to the EMCC Board. The nominating bodies appoint two district and borough council elected members and substitute members to the EMCCA Board and each of EMCCA's advisory committees.
- 2.3 The regulations state that there must be no more than eight non-constituent and associate members (combined). In addition to the four non-constituent district and borough representatives identified above, there are four additional non-constituent and associate places available.
- 2.4 In addition to the non-constituent District/Borough Council members, at the Board meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June the following non-constituent appointments to the Board were agreed:
- 1) Chair of the Business Advisory Board – David Williams
  - 2) East Midlands Regional secretary of Unison – Chris Jenkinson
  - 3) Rotating representative of the Higher Education and Further Education sectors.
  - 4) Voluntary and Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector.
- 2.5 The EMCCA governance framework provides for 4 District and Borough nominated representatives on its Board and each of its Committees, 2 from each county area.
- **Combined County Authority Board** - This is the decision-making body for all non-mayoral functions devolved to the Combined County Authority. It is responsible for the approval of all Combined County Authority strategy and the budget.
  - **Transport Advisory Committee** - This is an advisory committee to the Combined County Authority and the Mayor; it seeks to provide strategy advice and guidance on Transport matters in support of the exercise of Combined County Authority and Mayoral functions.
  - **Skills and Employment Advisory Committee** - This is an advisory committee to the Combined County Authority and the Mayor; it seeks to provide strategy advice and guidance on Skills and Employment matters in support of the exercise of Combined County Authority and Mayoral functions.
  - **Investment Committee** - This is an advisory committee to the Combined County Authority and the Mayor; it seeks to provide strategy advice and guidance on Investment matters in support of the exercise of Combined County Authority and Mayoral functions.

- **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** - This is a regulatory committee of the Combined County Authority; these are Committees that the Combined County Authority must have by law.
- **Audit and Governance Committee** - This is a regulatory committee of the Combined County Authority; these are Committees that the Combined County Authority must have by law.

2.6 Non-constituent members (including District and Borough Councils) are individual members of the Combined County Authority who are nominated to represent a group or organisation e.g. D2 strategic Leadership Board. Non-constituent members are non-voting unless the voting members resolve otherwise.

2.7 Political balance only applies to Combined County Authority appointments to its regulatory committees (Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and only to constituent council representation. Nominations from the D2 Strategic Leadership Board are not required to be politically proportionate, nonetheless representation of political opinion from across the county area has been considered in the D2 nominations proposed to EMCCA.

2.8 The appointments made at the EMCCA Board meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June include Cllr. Flitter as a member of the Transport Advisory Committee and also as a substitute member on the Skills and Employment Advisory Committee. Cllr. Hughes has been appointed as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cllr. Buttle has been appointed as a substitute member for the Audit and Governance Committee.

### **3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

3.1 Existing Joint Committees have now been dissolved. Whilst the Council could take the option to not participate in the D2 SLB, this is not desirable as the D2 SLB is a merger of two successful Joint Committees designed to support effective and efficient decision making. There is also significant interest in continuing to work collaboratively with Derby and Derbyshire Councils to work collectively in partnership to tackle the county's challenges and speak as a collective where possible.

### **4. Consultation**

4.1 All Derbyshire Councils have been engaged in the formulation of these proposals.

### **5. Timetable for Implementation**

5.1 The D2 Strategic Leadership Board and EMCCA Board has now been fully constituted and is operational.

### **6. Policy Implications**

6.1 The D2 Strategic Leadership Board and EMCCA Board provide mechanisms for the District Council to progress one of our corporate plan aims of engaging with partners (including other public authorities and infrastructure bodies) to champion rural towns and villages.

## **7. Financial and Resource Implications**

- 7.1 Following the decision of Derbyshire County Council to withdraw its funding support, District's and Boroughs are currently considering alternative options to support the work of the SLB. Until such time that clear proposals are developed, the financial risk of this report's recommendations is assessed as low.

## **8. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 Within the articles of the Joint Committee, 'functions and responsibilities' the Joint Committee, on behalf of the participating authorities, will be responsible for improving the delivery of functions through collaborative work which includes incorporating existing partnerships arrangements within the approach.

## **9. Equalities Implications**

- 9.1 There are no particular implications arising from the actions that are proposed.

## **10. Climate Change and Biodiversity Implications**

- 10.1 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.

## **11. Risk Management**

- 11.1 Financial and legal risks have been assessed above. There are no other significant risks arising from the report recommendations.

### **Report Authorisation**

Approvals obtained from Statutory Officers:-

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Paul Wilson	15/07/2024
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer	Karen Henriksen	09/07/2024
Monitoring Officer (or Legal Services Manager)	Helen Mitchell	15/07/2024