

SPECIAL CABINET**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2015****I N D E X**

Page No	Minute No	Heading
1	589	Apologies for Absence
1	590	Declarations of Interests
1	591	Proposal for North East Derbyshire District Council to be a Constituent Member of the Proposed Derby and Derbyshire (D2) Combined Authority
4	592	Urgent Business (Public Session)

SPECIAL CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2015

Present:

Councillor G Baxter MBE Leader (in the Chair)

Councillor N Barker

" M Gordon

" Mrs E A Hill

Councillor P R Kerry

" Mrs L Robinson

" P Williams

Also in attendance:

Councillors B Barnes

" G Butler

" P A Holmes

589 Apology for Absence

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor N Foster.

590 Declarations of Interests

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

There were no declarations of interests by Members at this meeting.

591 Proposal for North East Derbyshire District Council to be a Constituent Member of the Proposed Derby and Derbyshire (D2) Combined Authority

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive on a Proposal for North East Derbyshire District Council to be a Constituent Member of the Proposed Derby and Derbyshire (D2) Combined Authority. The purpose of the report was:-

- To detail the outcome of the recent governance review and the resulting proposal to create a Derby and Derbyshire (D2) Combined Authority (CA).
- To seek Cabinet's approval for the proposal to create a Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority and that the proposal be referred to Council for its endorsement, and to authorise the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the proposal and any related documents prior to submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

In September 2013 the Leaders' of Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council and the eight District and Borough Councils in Derbyshire agreed to establish a Joint Economic Prosperity Committee to support more effective and collaborative working across a range of functions and issues. Formal approval for each of the individual authorities to establish a Derby and Derbyshire Joint Committee was secured between December 2013 and March 2014. A key area of work for the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Committee over the past 10 months had been to undertake a governance review to determine whether the existing arrangements for economic development, regeneration and transport in Derbyshire were delivering the best results.

The review had been undertaken within the context of current policy and the aspirations of national Government to devolve powers and resources to strong local governance structures. This review was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and the Transport Act 2008.

The review process sought answers to the following three questions:-

- Where are we now?
- Where do we need to be?
- How are we going to get there?

Appendix 1 of the report presented the Governance Review Report, which set out a detailed account of the current economic conditions across the Derby and Derbyshire area and evaluated the existing Joint Committee and wider Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) governance arrangements and considered the potential options for improvement.

The proposed Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority would have a Board made up of 10 Leaders from the D2 Local Authorities (Constituent Members). Non Constituent Membership of the D2 Combined Authority Board were proposed to be offered to the Derby/Derbyshire and Nottingham/Nottinghamshire (D2N2) LEP to ensure strength in governance and relationship management. Observer status on the Board was proposed to be offered to the Peak District National Park. It is also proposed to create a "Stakeholder Forum" which would facilitate strategic dialogue with the private and third sectors. The D2 Combined Authority would be a decision making and accountable body responsible for developing, agreeing, implementing and monitoring Derby and Derbyshire wide strategies, clear programmes of activity, funding and specific delivery projects.

As part of the Governance Review the current D2 Joint Committee had undertaken a process of engagement with key stakeholders from across and outside the area. A consultation exercise was undertaken between 2 and 23 January 2015 to test local support for the proposal to create a D2 Combined Authority and its proposed ambitions. The range of stakeholders consulted on the proposal were detailed at paragraph 3.1 of the report. A total of 734 responses were received to the consultation. The initial analysis of the responses confirmed overall strong support for the proposal to create a Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority and its proposed boundaries.

If the D2 Combined Authority was supported and approved by the Department for Communities and Local Government its proposed work programme would focus initially around the following four ambitions:-

- Jobs and employment
- Skills
- Transport
- Housing

A fifth area of work “Funding our Future” would explore the more creative and innovative use of the general power of competence and other freedoms/flexibilities to support the D2 economic development, regeneration and transport programme.

The options for Cabinet’s consideration were detailed at paragraphs 1.1 to 5.3 of the report. The alternative options considered and rejected were:-

- Leaving the existing arrangements unchanged or slightly extended (i.e. through the current Joint Committee)
- Establishing an Economic Prosperity Board

It was anticipated that the administrative costs of the D2 Combined Authority would not be any greater than those incurred currently in supporting the Joint Committee and the D2N2 LEP arrangements.

In respect of Scrutiny call-in there was a need for the matter to be endorsed by Council and for the Scheme to be submitted to Government between 13 and 18 February 2015. In order to achieve this it had been necessary to request that Councillor John Windle, Chair of the Economic Regeneration, Skills and Environment Scrutiny Committee consider the proposed waiving of call-in in respect of the report. Councillor Windle had been consulted and agreed that the decision proposed was reasonable in all the circumstances and that the matter be treated as one of urgency to ensure that the timescales could be met in connection with submission of the Scheme to Government.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:

- (1) Endorses the findings of the D2 Governance Review which concluded that establishing a Derby and Derbyshire (D2) Combined Authority would improve the exercise of statutory functions in relation to economic development, regeneration and transport in the Derby and Derbyshire area leading to an enhancement of the economic conditions and performance of the region.
- (2) Agrees to the submission to Government of a Scheme for the establishment of a Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority.
- (3) Grants delegated authority to the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader of the Council to finalise proposals and any related documents in respect of the Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority for submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government and requests that the Council at its Extraordinary meeting on 12 February 2015 endorses all of its decisions on this matter.

- (4) Agrees that the Scrutiny call-in process in respect of the decisions on the Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority be waived in view of the urgency of this matter.

Reasons for Decisions:-

The reasons for the decisions were:-

- (1) The Governance Review report considered by Cabinet concluded that a Combined Authority for Derby and Derbyshire (D2) presents the best option for positively impacting on the economic conditions of the D2 area and also for providing the best opportunities for improved efficiency and effectiveness of delivery in transport and economic development. The decision of Cabinet supports this view.
- (2) The report enabled Cabinet to consider a report on the Proposal for North East Derbyshire District Council to be a Constituent Member of the Proposed Derby and Derbyshire (D2) Combined Authority, the matter was considered as urgent as a decision was required by 13 February 2015.

(Chief Executive)

592 Urgent Business (Public Session)

There was no urgent business to be considered in the public session at this Special meeting of Cabinet.
