

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

4 March 2014

Report of the Chief Executive

**Growth and Prosperity Concordat with High Peak Borough
Council and Derbyshire County Council**

(COUNCIL SERVICES)

1. Purpose of the Report

To propose a concordat between High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) which sets out areas of cooperation to drive forward both Councils' ambitions for growth, prosperity and social investment.

2. Information and Analysis

HPBC recently agreed a Growth Strategy and made a commitment to participate in the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity. HPBC approached DCC with a view to developing a concordat between the two Authorities to complement these initiatives by proposing an agreed set of actions between the Borough and County Councils which will accelerate the delivery of HPBC's Growth Strategy. It is intended that this could be a pilot for how the County Council engages with other District and Borough Councils to achieve similar joint aims and objectives.

From DCC's point of view the achievement of sustainable economic growth is already a major priority for the Council, "within the objective to achieve a Derbyshire that works". To move towards this includes a joint approach to the following challenges:

- The short-term need to stimulate investment and support businesses and residents given some of the toughest economic conditions for a generation;
- The need to invest to support a broad-based economy that is resilient over the longer term;

Agenda Item No.7 (f)

- Maximise opportunities presented by new European Funding programmes and Single Local Growth Funds from 2014 onwards;
- The changing basis of local authority funding, which ‘rewards’ authorities that achieve economic growth and work together.

HPBC’s Growth Plan sets out five strategic priorities that emerge from the existing strategies and the evidence base for High Peak. Those are:

1. Overturn the forecast long-term fall in jobs in High Peak;
2. Maximise investment that supports a thriving private sector, supports affordable housing and helps sustain public services;
3. Make sure High Peak fulfils its potential in the County and Greater Manchester sub-region;
4. Maximise the economic opportunities open to High Peak residents;
5. Ensure High Peak’s town centres successfully manage the transition to a new role in the future.

These priorities are challenging and in order to be effective both Councils need, with each other, to establish partnerships with key organisations.

The concordat attached to this report in Appendix 1 sets out further detail for the shared priorities of the Borough and County Councils. It also sets out a mechanism for delivering the shared priorities and ensuring senior political oversight of the process.

The concordat sets out an agenda for growth and links this to increased investment in the Councils’ shared priorities of improved job opportunities for younger people and better housing and care for older residents.

3. Council’s Commitment

This initiative should enable significant progress for all of the Councils commitments as set out below:

- **A Derbyshire that works.** Building a strong economy that creates jobs, grows businesses and provides a future for our young people.
- **A healthy Derbyshire.** Defending the NHS and tackling health inequalities.
- **A safer Derbyshire.** Fighting crime and building stronger communities.
- **A Derbyshire that cares.** Practical support for children and families and high-quality council-run services for the elderly, disabled and their carers.
- **A local Derbyshire.** Putting communities at the heart of decision-making.

In addition this approach could, if successful, be used to drive forward some, or all, of these objectives by entering into similar arrangements with other Districts and Borough Councils.

4. Financial Considerations

None identified at this stage as the intention is to co-ordinate and make more effective use of resources already budgeted for.

Any material financial matters arising as a result of the priorities and actions set out in the concordat will be subject to a further report.

5. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health and transport considerations.

6. Key Decision **NO**

7. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? **NO**

8. Background Papers None. Officer contact: Jeremy Goacher.

9. Officer Recommendations That Cabinet:

- 9.1 Approves the adoption of the concordat and the implementation of the governance and delivery arrangements set out in the agreement;
- 9.2 Receives an annual report reviewing the progress of the concordat.

Ian Stephenson
Chief Executive

Appendix 1

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND HIGH PEAK GROWTH AND PROSPERITY CONCORDAT

GROWTH AND PROSPERITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

We recognise the importance of working effectively between the two-tiers of local government to drive growth and prosperity for our residents. By working together through a committed partnership guided by clear, ambitious objectives we believe that we can accelerate the growth of the economy in High Peak and ensure that local people benefit through jobs, wage growth, business opportunities, and training and apprenticeships.

We firmly believe that the future of High Peak is best served by being part of Derbyshire. A committed partnership between the Borough Council and the County Council is the only way to improve services for our community and drive the economic growth that we need. But we both recognise that we also need to work with other partners to get the best for our community. In the case of High Peak the link with Greater Manchester is critical. It is the place where many of our residents work and shop, and it is the place where our businesses trade. The relationship with Greater Manchester is stronger if the County and Borough are clear about their joint priorities – this concordat shows the clarity and ambition of our vision and we will use this in our discussions with Greater Manchester.

There is a great deal to do to improve services for our community. We need more affordable houses to address the increasing need for decent homes. We need more investment to support older and vulnerable people so that they can live longer and fulfilled lives in their own homes and, where necessary, can get the right places to live when this is no longer possible.

This investment is vitally important but we want to maximise the benefits by giving all our residents the opportunity to get involved through jobs, apprenticeships, and encouraging local suppliers.

To achieve the goal of a growing economy we have set out a shared programme of work which we are committed to delivering together.

OUR PRIORITIES

- 1. We will increase the resources needed to make growth happen, by:**
 - a. Reaffirming our commitment to work together on the Crescent project in Buxton and making good on the promise to make Buxton *England's leading spa town*;
 - b. Developing a growth fund to support investment through targeted loans to unlock stalled projects such as the Ferro-Alloys site in Glossop (the Glossop chimney);

Agenda Item No.7 (f)

- c. Using our land and premises, where appropriate, to stimulate business growth and the provision of affordable homes;
 - d. Developing and implementing plans, with the Manchester councils, to improve road and rail links particularly to improve congestion in Glossopdale and improve the speed and frequency of trains on the Buxton line.
- 2. We will invest in people so that our residents are best-placed to benefit from the growth in the economy, by:**
- a. Developing a shared apprenticeship programme to link our plans for growth with opportunities for young people in construction, housing and other public services;
 - b. Agree a shared employment charter which we will ask all developers in the High Peak to sign to work with us to recruit unemployed people, take on apprentices, and agree the use of local suppliers;
- 3. We will share our property assets to improve services in our town centres by:**
- a. Working together to invest in the library at Victoria Hall and plan for the transfer of the Town Hall, Market Hall and Municipal Buildings to the community;
 - b. Developing a plan to make the best use of our property assets in Buxton and ensure that our services such as libraries and welfare advice are in the best place for our customers.
- 4. We will provide better services to older and vulnerable people by:**
- a. Developing and implementing plans to improve existing housing for older and vulnerable people;
 - b. Developing and implementing plans to build new houses for older and vulnerable people that are adapted for their needs now and into the future;
 - c. Putting in place a programme to make the homes of older and vulnerable people more energy efficient and cheaper to heat and keep warm;
 - d. Establishing a partnership with health and social care to improve support for older and more vulnerable people so that they can stay in their own homes longer.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

We want this to happen and we want it to happen quickly. We will be making sure that together we will drive this ambitious agenda by providing strong leadership by the Leaders of both Councils.

Agenda Item No.7 (f)

The Leaders will meet every quarter to make sure the objectives and principles of the concordat are being met and any issues or problems are resolved.

To support the delivery of the concordat we will:

- Set out a programme of activity stating what we will do and by when;
- Establish a dedicated group of officers to make sure that the programme is delivered to time and on budget;
- Ensure that senior officers meet every month to ensure our objectives are being met;
- Report on progress to both Councils and to the public.

Councillor Anne Western
Leader, Derbyshire County Council
Council

Councillor Caitlin Bicknell
Leader, High Peak Borough