

# **D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY**

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## **Follow Up to D2N2 Strategic Leaders' Meeting**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the D2 Joint Committee with a note of the outputs of the meeting

### **2. DISCUSSION/ DECISION REQUIRED BY THE MEETING**

- 2.1 **The Joint Committee is requested to note the proposed approach for developing the DIIP set out in this report and considers any potential opportunities for greater alignment with similar work/ plans in Derby City and the wider D2N2 area.**

### **3.0 ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Derbyshire Infrastructure Plan (DIP) was originally published in May 2012 and refreshed in November 2013 and focuses on strategic infrastructure in the D1 (Derbyshire) area to ensure that ongoing investment in infrastructure and services (transport, highways, schools, public health, broadband, libraries etc) is secured to support our communities and to deliver sustainable growth and development.
- 3.2 The DIP was subject to a 3 year review and in September 2016, a revised approach to infrastructure planning was proposed and approved by the DCC Cabinet [http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/\(7v\)%20DIIP\\_tcm44-284060.pdf](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/(7v)%20DIIP_tcm44-284060.pdf) and entitled the Derbyshire Infrastructure Investment Plan (DIIP). The composite information and content of the Plan will be mapped spatially and provided as a live, online mapping resource with supporting, written commentary. The Data Protocol Agreement which also supports the DIIP details how local authorities across Derbyshire authorities will work together to collate and share data to inform the evidence base, monitor delivery and support the statutory Duty to Cooperate.
- 3.3 The new DIIP will include a list of over 300 potential infrastructure investment projects (the Big List) across the County compiled to enable the delivery of local plans and support the prioritisation and allocation of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Fund and other work streams agreed by the Derbyshire and/ or D2N2 Leaders. It is proposed to take all potential projects through a common appraisal framework following the HM Treasury's 'Green Book' model to ensure business cases are robust and to ensure resource prioritisations are targeted. This model is linked to the Local Growth Fund assurance framework to ensure there is no

duplication of effort – and consistency of understanding on value for money outcomes.

- 3.4 The approach to developing the DIIP will require fully joined up working between all authorities to maximise its benefits and ensure the public sector secures timely infrastructure provision (roads, schools, libraries, health facilities, broadband etc). It is intended there will be support and capacity training in both the content of the Plan and its implementation. This will include the refinement of the existing protocols in relation to data sharing and developer contribution requests to ensure the public sector as a whole removes the inherent barriers to sustaining economic growth.
- 3.4 In February 2017, the Government published the [Housing White Paper](#) in which it proposed that housing delivery will be measured using the National Statistic for net additional dwellings over a rolling, three year average. Where under-delivery is identified, the Government proposes a tiered approach to addressing the situation that would be set out in national policy and guidance. From November 2017, it is proposed that if the delivery of housing falls below 85% of the housing requirement, authorities would in addition be expected to plan for a 20% buffer on their five-year land supply, if they have not already done so.
- 3.5 In order to support the delivery of housing and enable local planning authorities to achieve Government targets, it is essential that identified development sites are served by the appropriate level and timing of new infrastructure.
- 3.6 The DIIP will identify the infrastructure that is fundamental to supporting the development and subsequent delivery of Local Plans and will align the County Council's investment planning, forward-looking Capital Programme and funding bids.
- 3.7 Where new development creates a need for new or improved infrastructure, contributions from developers will be sought to make the development acceptable in planning terms. To enable the delivery of infrastructure in a timely manner, the County Council has developed a new protocol for seeking developer contributions to enable the delivery of infrastructure to support development and mitigate its impact. It is recognised that some sites will have viability issues however it is necessary that in making a decision, local politicians are aware of the infrastructure needed to support these sites and the implications should developer contributions be reduced or unattainable.
- 3.8 The Housing White Paper also identifies a number of support packages and funding opportunities to enable the delivery of infrastructure to support the unlocking of land. The DIIP will be a critical piece of the evidence base for to access appropriate external funds to deliver essential infrastructure to support housing and economic growth.

- 3.9 Along with the Housing White Paper a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Review was also published and assessed the contribution CIL has made to the provision of infrastructure. Recommendations were made how a fairer tariff-based system may contribute to the delivery of infrastructure in the future.

### **Wider Context**

- 3.10 In terms of alignment of the DIIP with the wider context, Derby City Council currently produces an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (August 2015) which is a dynamic document, updated annually, that supports growth contained within the Local Plan. Upper tier authorities in N2 undertake similar work e.g, Nottingham City Council produces a Greater Nottingham Infrastructure Delivery Plan (based on the commensurate housing market area) which is linked to the Nottingham City Core Strategy; and Nottinghamshire County Council links the work through its Local Transport Plan and associated implementation plan.
- 3.11 Given the on-going work to develop a robust pipeline of projects linked to the LGF and new, major investment projects such as HS2, there is a potential opportunity to either align or integrate the work of the two Derbyshire – based infrastructure plans to present a coherent D2-wide picture.
- 3.10 In addition, Leaders will be aware of the discussion that took place at the D2N2 Strategic Leaders' Meeting on 10 February around the potential development of a D2N2 Strategic Infrastructure Plan (linked to existing D2 and N2 infrastructure investment planning work). The D2N2 plan could/ would include identification of: major and strategic route strategies; public transport proposals; Smart technology; region-wide growth/ regeneration ambitions and would certainly need to reflect any more local (D2) proposals.

## **4.0 NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 In the first instance - and in terms of the preparation of the DIIP - liaison will be undertaken with officers at Derby City Council to ensure the planning, assessment and allocation of infrastructure investment for the DIIP is aligned to the Derby Infrastructure Delivery Plan and provides a cohesive set of proposals for the whole county area.
- 4.2 A strategic task and finish officer group be set up to develop and deliver the DIIP and ensure there is a consistency of approach in the appraisal of the projects. The group will develop a red-amber-green (RAG) assessment against the Green Book which can be used to recommend priorities to local authority leaders.
- 4.3 The Plan will be updated to show the areas for housing and economic development and infrastructure investment. This will enable the entire infrastructure planning process to focus explicitly on growth, specifically

unlocking 5 year housing land supply to meet the new Housing White Paper delivery targets.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended the D2 Joint Committee:**

- a) Notes the contents of this report and specifically, the strategic approach to the delivery of infrastructure projects that support Local Plans and housing and economic growth across Derbyshire.**
- b) Agrees that arrangements for capacity building, information supply and support provided by Derbyshire County Council can be discussed directly with all individual authorities at the appropriate officer level, with a view to confirming a Developer Contributions Protocol and Date Protocol.**
- c) Considers the potential opportunities for aligning and/ or integrating infrastructure investment planning across the D2 and wider D2N2 region and submits an appropriate recommendation to the next D2N2 Joint Committee.**