

Joe Battye
Director Economy and Regeneration
Derbyshire County Council
County Hall
MATLOCK DE4 3AG

Please ask for: Steve Capes
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Date: 16 January 2015

Dear Ms Battye

PROPOSED DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY: CONSULTATION

I am writing to provide you with the District Council's formal response to the consultation. This response was agreed by members at a full Council meeting on Thursday 15 January 2015.

Our comments are in three parts – general comments, specific remarks concerning the overlap with Sheffield City Region Combined Authority, and finally some points of detail.

GENERAL

1. Firstly, we would like to express our overall support for the proposals. Derbyshire Dales District Council is keen to play a full part in the Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority.

It is important that local authorities work together, without any costly and disruptive reorganisation of boundaries and functions (nor ceding of powers), in order to achieve efficiencies and best serve the public. A two-tier local government system, that is both responsive to local needs (districts) and works strategically (counties) is the best structure to serve the public in rural areas, and we believe the proposed Combined Authority will help secure this structure for Derbyshire.

2. We are keen to stress that any Combined Authority covering Derbyshire will need to address the needs of residents and businesses in the Derbyshire Dales, and reflect the rurality of Dales communities. In particular, this means helping microbusinesses to grow, creating better paid jobs in rural areas, and enabling more affordable homes to be built in our communities.
3. We welcome the proposed joint D2N2 Leaders forum, on the basis it includes ALL nineteen local authority Leaders. Lack of full representation at D2N2 has up to now been a fundamental flaw in its governance arrangements, and it is good to see that this has at long last been acknowledged.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE : Dorcas Bunton BSc, CPFA
Town Hall, MATLOCK, Derbyshire DE4 3NN

OVERLAP WITH SHEFFIELD CITY REGION

4. Due to our functioning economic geography looking both to Sheffield and the Midlands, the needs of the Derbyshire Dales are best served by the District Council's full participation in both Derbyshire and Sheffield City Region. On the basis of current and proposed legislative arrangements, Derbyshire Dales District Council can remain a (voting) non-constituent member of the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority whilst becoming a (voting) constituent member of a Derby and Derbyshire combined authority.
5. It is absolutely crucial that those districts overlapping both Combined Authorities continue to be able to participate fully in both, and our support for the proposals is contingent on this. We also believe it is vital that the proposed Combined Authority does its utmost to support and maintain relationships with Sheffield City Region. These relationships should be vigorously pursued at all levels.
6. To this end, it is important that the map circulated with the consultation please be replaced with one that accurately shows that the overlapping districts are part of Sheffield City Region (the consultation version does not show the overlap at all, merely showing the constituent members of the SCR Combined Authority).

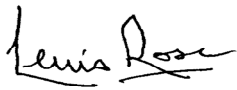
DETAIL

- Page 18, first para under 'Economic Base'. In order to demonstrate that business density in parts of Derbyshire is higher than the England average, please ADD to the end of this paragraph (after "...57 in England."): *In rural areas, however, business density is healthier, with 67 businesses per 1,000 working age residents in the Peak District.*
- Page 18, para 3 (starting "Compared to England...". So that the distinctiveness of the Combined Authority proposals is clear, please ADD after this para: *However, micro enterprises (those employing fewer than 10 people) account for nine out of ten businesses in Derby and Derbyshire, and microbusinesses with growth potential are critical engines for generating new jobs.*
- Page 39, the final para in 3.2 (starting "A draft scheme...". In order to reflect the wish of all partners that decisions be taken by consensus as a matter of course rather than by voting, please ADD to the end of this paragraph: *The Scheme describes how the Combined Authority will function, including the default position that decisions will normally be made by consensus rather than by voting but that for certain decisions a unanimous vote will be required.*
- Page 49, The Offer. To reflect the fact that small sites are not just housing sites (housing sites are picked up elsewhere) but also employment sites: the packaging of smaller employment sites is a distinctive offer that the Combined Authority could deliver, please ADD an additional bullet point: *To package together stalled smaller employment sites across Derby and Derbyshire (through reviewing existing local infrastructure plans and from interventions with HCA and BDUK), creating a more viable intervention proposition than many separate projects*

- Page 50, The Ask: please CHANGE bullet one to not refer explicitly to Global Derbyshire but instead say: *Regional Growth Fund finance to create a ladder of financial support options for micro, small and medium sized businesses that have solid growth plans (with support criteria that are not prohibitive to firms of this size)*
- Page 50, The Ask: please ADD a further bullet to reflect the packaging of small sites mentioned above, e.g. *Consider creating localised Growth Deals based on the three functioning economic geographical areas within D2, i.e. north and east Derbyshire; the wider Peak District; and Derby, South Derbyshire, Amber Valley and Erewash.*

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the hard work you and your 'D2' colleagues have put into preparing these consultation proposals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lewis Rose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROSE OBE
Leader of the Council