

**BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Meeting of the Council on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Report Title Bolsover Partnership Annual Report Update**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing**

<b>Classification</b>	This report is Public
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Chris Fridlington Director Devolution and Development

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT**

To receive Bolsover Partnerships Annual Report 2023/2024 and celebration video following the Annual General Meeting.

To receive an update on and approach and progress on local partnership working in a changing context.

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**REPORT DETAILS**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Council shares a long history of working collaboratively with partners via Bolsover Partnership which will soon be entering its 25<sup>th</sup> year. Updates have been received frequently on progress of this work in the form of an Annual Report containing both performance and financial details, to satisfy relevant requirements as part of the Council's accountable body status within this entity. The breadth of successful delivery is testament to everyone across different sectors statutory, voluntary, community and charitable and private sectors contributing and working together.
- 1.2 Over the past year several policy changes both regionally and nationally have been introduced which will have an impact on the future of this arrangement and therefore need to be considered as part of this update. These changes will impact specific sectors the Council works with locally.

**2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The Annual Report is a collection of activity contained in appendix 1 [BP AnnualReport2324\\_FINAL.pdf](#) providing an update on the £2.5 million of funding streams invested in Bolsover District, managed by the Corporate Policy and Devolution Team. A summary of the funds allocated during this time are as follows:

- £1.9 million pounds of UK Shared Prosperity funding (UKSPF)
- £428,000, from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)
- £228,597 Derbyshire County Council Public Health (Locality)
- £37,000 Councillor Community Grants
- £102,045 Grants to Voluntary Organisations
- £82,600 Community Rail Partnership

2.2 The management of these programmes continues to satisfy relevant spending targets and funders requirements, which means the District is well-placed when it comes to additional funding. This will include a third year of UKSPF, A 5-year commitment of Derbyshire County Council Public Health funds and annual Rail Partnership commitments. The personal impact of programmes being delivered locally can be seen in the real-life stories included in this report as case studies.

2.3 The use of social value tools has continued to develop over the past decade to support the measurement on local impact and has shown how relatively modest amounts of money can bring tangible benefits for local people, as illustrated in the Impact Spotlight on page 6. Last year the District's approach to addressing health inequalities and measuring impact of this was recognised by the Local Government Association in their Municipal Journal (MJ) awards; being shortlisted as finalists for a national award was a huge accolade. Alongside this, the news that Derbyshire County Council has approved Public Health Locality funding for five years brings much needed stability to this aspect of the Partnership's work, particularly considering increasing health inequalities amongst our residents and as we've recently learned and identified in this report of the Derbyshire County Council funding cuts to Voluntary Community Sector will undoubtedly impact on a significant number of groups that directly contribute to reducing these inequalities.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 The Council note and endorse the contents of the report and receives Bolsover Partnership Annual Report (with celebration video).

3.2 The Council note the Policy direction and the work undertaken by the Corporate Policy and Devolution team to create conditions for all sectors and partners to thrive in this changing context, which in summary is as follows.

3.3 Firstly, at the end of 2024 Derbyshire County Council approved to cease all discretionary grant funding arrangements across 50 Voluntary, Charitable and Community organisations across the county after 31 March 2025. This totals £1.106 million.

3.4 Secondly, 2024 saw the introduction of a new regional approach as part of the East Midlands Combined Authority (EMMCA). The Council via the Corporate Policy and Devolution team have been closely involved with ensuring the Council and partners has a voice in this regional context. The Mayor has set out a key vision and ambitions for the region and the opportunity to chart a new course on governance which drives delivery of shared outcomes for all. This vision is significant for policy makers as it includes local policy making to be embedded in partnerships (some formal, some informal) between public, private and VCS

sectors. The details within this are being consulted on currently as part of the Inclusive Growth work stream and will include good jobs, quality education, and thriving local economies which are closely aligned with our existing partnership working.

- 3.5 Thirdly, supporting a local approach is at the heart of the NHS's long-term plan where the Prevention Programme & Community Based Models set out how improvements to health, preventing illness and disease is key to reducing health inequalities. This is significant for Bolsover with a history of high levels of health inequality. The Local Government Association also sets out the role of equal central – local partnerships in their '100 Issues' which they are offering to work on with the new government.
- 3.6 Lastly, the end of 2024 saw the introduction of a 'Civil Society Covenant' which will mark new partnership arrangements intending to harness the knowledge and expertise of voluntary, community, social enterprises (VCFSEs) and charities to deliver better outcomes for communities across the country. The Covenant signals the start of a period of wider engagement to create a new partnership between the government and civil society where they do not exist already, and where partnerships are already in existence that this approach will support them to evolve and thrive.
- 3.7 The Covenant Framework sets out the ambition, scope and key principles that should underpin the new and or evolved relationships. It includes four high level principles – transparency, recognition, partnership, and participation. Bolsover District Council have committed officer time to attend ongoing online meetings, the first of which took place on 02/12/24, to ensure we have visibility of the Covenant once this is issued. We will then be able to commit resources to further explore how the Greater Manchester VCFSE Accord and Barnsley Council's Ward Alliance approach can inform our future direction and partnership arrangements.
- 3.8 In summary the above points demonstrate a positive position from a national and regional perspective for local partnership working. Although the rate of change has been challenging to navigate, they do present an opportunity locally for the Council and partners in the longer term to maximise local benefit, and it is an opportune time to continue to explore, redefine and evolve Bolsover Partnership to meet the needs of the future.
- 3.9 Bolsover Partnerships longevity has been its ability to adapt to change well ensuring local benefit across the community. However the scale and rate of change has meant this hasn't been as effective as it has been previously. This has meant the District Council, as a key partner through its Corporate Policy and Devolution Team, has been required to show leadership in navigating this change to ensure the benefit to communities is maintained. Bolsover Partnership has also been effective in having an Independent Chair also and in the spirit of partnership working it is important the future steps are taken collaboratively and independently. The Annual General Meeting which took place in the Autumn (19<sup>th</sup> September 2024) achieved this and was a positive step forward. The Council facilitated additional resources from Lloyds Bank Foundation, as key partner, and they jointly, with Public Health representatives, facilitated meaningful discussion and identified positive action for the future with partners leaving the meeting motivated for change. Support, capacity, and investment from Lloyds Bank Foundation as part

of their ongoing community and place workstream which is a ten-year investment in Bolsover. As part of this Lloyds Bank Foundation have also funded a 12 months full-time role to lead all this this work to support development of Bolsover Partnership structures and inform future direction.

#### 4 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 This work requires continued investment in the form of capacity which has been provided by the Corporate Policy and Devolution Team. An option could be to no longer pursue this work. Considering the details set out however this it is likely to have a negative impact on strategic relationships and reduce the impact achieved across the community (examples set out in the Annual Report)

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. To receive the Bolsover Partnership Annual Report 2023/2024
2. To endorse the approach directing Bolsover Partnership's evolution.

Approved by Councillor Mary Dooley, Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing

### **IMPLICATIONS:**

<b><u>Finance and Risk</u></b>		
<b>Details:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
<b><u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u></b>		
<b>Details:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		
<b><u>Staffing</u></b>		
<b>Details:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
On behalf of the Head of Paid Service		

<u><b>Equality and Diversity, and Consultation</b></u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Details:</b>    	
<u><b>Environment</b></u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Details:</b>    	

**DECISION INFORMATION:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Please indicate which threshold applies:</b>	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Revenue (a)</b> Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or <b>(b)</b> Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.	(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Capital (a)</b> Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or <b>(b)</b> Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.	(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected:</b> <i>(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)</i> Please state below which wards are affected or tick <b>All</b> if all wards are affected:	All <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If No, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? <i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Consultation carried out:</b> <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing</b>

**DOCUMENT INFORMATION:**

Appendix No	Title
1	Bolsover Partnership Annual Report

<b>Background Papers</b>
<i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>