

POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

2 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE ISSUES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the progress with respect to certain Corporate Issues and the known implications arising from Countywide Developments.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- 2.1 **The Committee notes the report.**
- 2.2 **The timetable and next steps proposed for the Improvement Plan and Corporate Plan developed through the Performance Management Task Group be approved.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Improvement Plan

Following the decision of this Committee at its meeting in December 2010 the Officers have continued to monitor and refine the existing approved Improvement Plan. The refinements have included the deletion of matters which are no longer relevant nationally or part of the Countywide/Local Framework and improvements to the developing New Ways of Working Programme. It was resolved that Officers would continue to monitor the Improvement Plan for the remainder of the financial year reporting any issues of note to the relevant Policy Committee. No such issues have arisen that would not have been dealt with in programmed reports, therefore the monitoring continues with no matters of significance developing.

In order to close down monitoring against the Improvement Plan for this year a copy of the refined Plan will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee.

3.2 Corporate Plan

Following general Member direction the Plan is being reworked around the themes of "Supporting People", "Improving Places" and "A Well Run Council" this will be taken through the Performance Management Task Group at its next meeting. All Member guidance in readiness for presentation to the first major Policy Committee of the new administration together with a revised Performance Management Framework is being pursued.

Officers will suggest that the Corporate Plan presented to Members in June 2011 be subject to a full review at the close of the first financial year of the new administration together with as appropriate "light touch" changes which may arise in 2011/12 as a result of Member requirements, the impact of National Issues or further budgetary impacts.

3.3 Performance Management Task Group

The Task Group has critically reviewed the current Performance Management Framework and has advised the Officers that the existing Framework remains Fit for Purpose but that a

radical examination of key areas of interest/performance monitoring is required, together with modernisation of the systems used. In particular, the Task Group has looked at the Severn Trent model raised by Members as a potential alternative to be considered for the Council. Severn Trent kindly gave a presentation to the Council on its model and Officers have worked up a localised approach. Following Member guidance the approach will move away from a “dart board/target” format to a more linear presentation of information. The key thrust of the Severn Trent model is the “Line of Sight” through the Organisation from the key Corporate Priorities to the Teams and delivery by individuals. It is hoped that before the next meeting of the Task Group a test of the revised and Meltonised format can have taken place. This will use the guidance received from Members with respect to the Corporate Plan process as the basis for development of testing the format.

The Task Group has also acted as a Sounding Board for the Government Initiatives under the heading of the “Transparency Agenda” and the sector approach lead by the Local Government Group. The Council has responded to all consultations with a primary objective of reducing the burden upon Local Government with respect to the data it produces and presents nationally. The same data sets are often required to be presented in different formats to different bodies and the Council is making the point that data should be submitted once and reused as appropriate by Government or other duly authorised bodies. The Task Group is also involved in the response to the proposed Performance Framework for the Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy. The Task Group, through Officers is advising that any Countywide Framework must be relevant to the Locality, proportionate and light touch.

3.4 Extraordinary Efficiency Task Group

As reported to the last meeting of this Committee the Task Group has commenced dialogue with the Chairs of the Policy Committee to look at ways of developing the Councils Efficiency Approach in Policy and Service Delivery. The Task Group is tackling the culture of efficiency and productivity at all levels, from the smallest action such as use of emails to a collection of data and information which will better inform Policy Development.

3.5 Countywide Position

Community Budgets

The Council remains an active partner in the development of the prototype for Leicestershire County of a Community Budget for Families with Complex Needs. The draft National Submission is nearing completion with detailed discussions taking place with the Bichard Group. The Borough Council has indicated a willingness to consider tailoring its work around the Family Intervention Project and Neighbourhood Management to assist with the People and Place approach being developed.

The Strategic Director (KA) and the Community Safety Officer continue to work with County Council colleagues developing the approach.

3.6 Access to Services (Total Place)

As previously reported the development of Parkside is a pilot for the continuation of the Access to Services Project developed under Total Place. The Council recently took part in a Voluntary and Community Sector lead workshop relating to “worklessness” at which the Borough Councils Circles of Need work was put forward during the workshop by the Customer Insight Officer. The workshop was much impressed by the outputs achieved from the operation of this project and a further request for shared resources from the County Council has been made. This has been proactively considered by the Corporate Management Team. The pilot will continue the development of the Northgate products and will build on work already commenced, which is designed to develop Melton as an

exemplar site for customer focussed service delivery.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The ongoing work set out within this report follows Member guidance and Policy direction. As the National picture further develops together with its impact at a Countywide, Sub Regional Level, Officers will continue to seek advice and guidance and a formal determination of next steps when required.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no particular financial implications arising from this report, save that Senior Officers have indicated to the County Council that it would be difficult to second any further staff to the Countywide projects without appropriate backfill monies.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no particular legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 The work with Neighbourhoods and with Families with Complex Needs has an impact upon Anti-Social Behaviour and the safety and security of the place and local residents.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 As Countywide and other initiatives develop and may require changes within the Council, appropriate Equalities Impact Assessments will be carried out. Otherwise, such matters would be taken into account within the project as a whole.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 **Probability** ↓

Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D		1, 2		
Very Low E				
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

→ **Impact**

Risk No.	Description
1	Delays in implementing Improvement Plan
2	New systems established for People Based Services by Community Budget Implementation

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 There are no issues relevant within this report.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All

Contact Officer Lynn Aisbett, Chief Executive
Date: 22 February 2011

Appendices : None

Background Papers: None

Reference : X: Committee\Ctee, Council & Sub Cttees\PFA\2010-11\020311