POLICY FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

4 DECEMBER 2012

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE ISSUES

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To update Members on series of Corporate Issues, in particular the development of collocation at Parkside, improved Member management of Elections and Equalities issues together with an update on Turning the Tanker and the Big Society.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

2.1 **The progress of the Strategic Parkside Group be noted.**

2.2 **The localisation of the Community Organiser Programme be noted and a further report be made to the Community and Social Affairs Committee during the second/third cycle of meetings in 2013/14.**

2.3 **The arrangements for a Big Society Conference be not pursued.**

2.4 **An annual report on Elections be required to be presented to the Governance Committee during the second/third cycle of meetings in each financial year.**

2.5 **Full Council be requested to amend the Delegation Arrangements for Committees to delegate oversight and Member management of Equalities to the Governance Committee.**

2.6 **The progress with respect to 'Turning the Tanker' be noted.**

3.0 **KEY ISSUES**

3.1 Strategic Parkside Board

3.1.1 Internal Management arrangements for collocation at Parkside and its development have been put in place. A copy of those arrangements is attached at Appendix A for Members information. The first meeting of the Strategic Parkside Board has taken place with the majority of Partners present. The Partners indicated they were most satisfied with the arrangements in Parkside and considered the environment suitable for the development of collocated services. There was a keenness amongst Partners to ensure that the 'story' and 'stories' from the building were captured and that learning was made available to other collocating organisations within Leicestershire as well as being used to develop opportunities within Parkside itself. The Council had participated with Loughborough University in a performance outcome study/research project which was ready to report and this will form the basis of the next meeting with Partners.

3.1.2 The Partners were far sighted enough to appreciate that learning and development of achievements from collocation could lead to redesign of services and further efficiencies and effectiveness for each organisation. This particular outcome was one of the objectives of collocation but the Council accepted it would take time to achieve and this consideration represents the first step on that journey. A report of that performance outcome approach

for collocation will be made to the Performance Management Task Group and thereafter as appropriate Governance Committee.

3.1.3 The Board also indicated a willingness to work further on cultural issues, shared experiences, business continuity planning and resilience. The latter issues arose from the recent IT incidents including the virus attack. Updates to this Committee by way of this report or individual reports as required will be made.

3.2   Community Organisers

3.2.1 As part of the development of the Strategic Partnership at Parkside. The Council has approached several Partners to create a specific small Community Development Project around the role of the Community Organiser in Melton.

3.2.2 Members may recall that Melton was selected as one of the pilot areas for the national Community Organisers Programme. Two Organisers were appointed and they were placed with Voluntary Action Melton (VAM). The oversight and management of the Organisers has recently transferred to Voluntary Action Leicestershire (VAL) as VAM has consolidated to its core activities.

3.2.3 The Government has offered to any Community that wishes to continue with this Community Development opportunity an 'endowment' of £15,000 per Community Organiser providing the Community can match fund that sum. The Community Organisers work at the absolute front line of Community Development listening to the issues and concerns of individuals and groups, supporting them to look for their own solutions and assisting in bring them in contact with others who can help as well as assisting in development of their own solution(s). The remaining Melton Community Organiser has developed several ideas with individuals and groups across the full spectrum of partnership activities including youth issues, health, befriending and skills. It was considered unfortunate if the 'endowment' could be lost to the Community and therefore an approach is being made to the Strategic Parkside Partners (County Council, Probation and Health) to see if they would be willing to contribute a small sum for 12 months to continue the Programme and the thereafter to review and evaluate the impact of the local programme and consider continuation for one year further.

3.2.4 Each of the Partners have been asked to contribute £3,000 to the programme support. This Council can accommodate the sum from within existing budgets and County Council and Probation have agreed to support the proposal. VAL have agreed to contribute 'in kind' support and management to this sum. Whilst the Partners await the decision from colleagues at the Leicestershire Partnership Trust, a proposal to be submitted to Government through Locality the National Managers of the Programme is being prepared for draw down of the 'endowment.'

3.2.5 This small opportunity/programme aligns with the Leicestershire approach to 'Communities in Charge' and the Councils aspiration to examine and develop with its Community co-design, co-production and co-delivery. Discussions are taking place with the County Council to ascertain if this together with a Neighbourhood Management proposal to the Supporting Leicestershire Families Board could form the basis of a locality approach to this Countywide initiative.

3.2.6 Further reports as required will be made upon this proposal to the Strategic Parkside Board and thereafter to the Community and Social Affairs Committee as required.

3.3   Big Society

3.3.1 Members will recall as part of its early consideration of the National Big Society approach it was suggested that a conference be held in Melton to work with the Community and Voluntary Sector and other interested parties to develop the locality approach as required.

An earlier report to this Committee indicated that the County Council's Scrutiny Commission's review of the Big Society should form the basis of this conference. Discussions have taken place with Community representatives and representatives of the County Council including at Scrutiny Member level and the feedback given is that in Melton the 'Local' approach to services, the support given to the Voluntary and Community Sectors together with the partnership approach as evidenced in the item above would result in the conference being superfluous in the context of the locality's current development.

3.3.2 This was complimentary feedback to the Council and its Partners together with its Community and therefore it is proposed that the conference not be progressed however, that some high level coordination of the partnership approach be developed and presented to the Melton Community Partnership at a future meeting for its consideration. If required a further report will be made to this Committee.

3.4 Elections

3.4.1 As Members are aware the Council has recently participated in the Police Area Elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner together with running two By Elections, one for a Melton Mowbray Borough Council Ward and one for a Parish Ward. The Council has made efficiency changes to its Election arrangements and is developing resilience within the Council through sharing roles and expertise across a team of workers. The same team is now moving forward its arrangements for the County Council Elections in May.

3.4.2 Whilst the Council does receive relevant reports on this function these are particularly related to review items such as boundary changes or polling station/district review. The Chief Executive as Returning Officer suggests to Members that this important Democratic Service should be subject an Annual Report to the Governance Committee to oversee and engage Members in these arrangements.

3.5 Equalities

3.5.1 Following the Peer Review of the Councils Equalities Arrangements at which the Council reached the Achieving status a formal Action Plan has been developed to maintain and move the Council forward. A copy of the Action Plan is attached at Appendix B for Members information.

3.5.2 In accordance with her delegation the Head of Central Services has slightly refreshed the Policy to take into account changes in requirements and moves are in place to set up the 'Check and Challenge Group' relating to Equalities impacts with appropriate oversight arrangements by the Equalities Steering Group. From the Action Plan Members will note that the Council is on course to maintain its Achieving Standard and report will be considered by the Equalities Steering Group on the steps that would be needed to move to the next level, should the Council so wish.

3.5.3 As Equalities is part of the Governance Framework of the Council it is proposed to this Committee that Full Council be requested to allocate the oversight of Equalities matters to the Governance Committee. This will create synergies with Performance Management, Audit and Corporate Reviews.

3.6 Turning the Tanker

3.6.1 Members will note from detailed reports elsewhere on this agenda that the Council is moving forward with the relevant element of its revised focus on priorities. The Transformation Programme is being aligned and developed to maximise the impact of the Councils resources at a financial, staff and technology level. The Council is ambitious in its Programme however it will be able to review it progress at various stages and the success with the Universal Credit Pilot has enabled the development of a customer focussed proof

of concept which will be used when other services are developed are 'e-enabled.' The Council is also working closely with the Partners who are part of that Bid and this is presenting additional opportunities and resources for development.

3.6.2 The 'People' focus is developing through the Supporting Leicestershire Families work and it is hoped that shortly approval will be given to Melton as one of the first five Districts to formally roll out the Programme. The final stages of the Countywide approach are being put in place.

3.6.3 Furthermore, with respect to Employment Skills and Worklessness an internal meeting of relevant Officers has taken place and coordinated strands of activity across several services and initiatives is being developed.

3.6.4 The priority focus on 'Place' based activity is progressing with a focus at the present time on housing infrastructure, the overarching Planning Framework contained in the Core Strategy of the Melton Local Development Framework with the Cattle Market refresh of activity being moved forward. Progress and discussions at a sub regional level continue with the Council's engagement with the Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership, the Leicestershire Rural Partnership and directly by supporting Local Businesses.

3.6.5 The Melton Community Partnership has agreed to take forward a review/overview of the Localities 'unique selling point' and how this can be developed and used in the future. The outputs from the Task and Finish Group established under the Partnership will be presented to the Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee in due course.

3.6.6 Finally, the open 'Market Place' was held on 29 November. At the time of writing this report preparations for the Market Place were in hand and interest of staff across a range of services was being noted. A further verbal report on the event will be presented to Members at the Committee.

3.6.7 A development of the "Turning the Tanker" approach has seen some learning around the concept of the 'Agile Council' this information was presented to the Budget and Strategic Planning Working Group at its recent meeting and has been part of the Chief Executives discussions with the T3 Group. This Council appears to meet many of the ingredients of such a Council and it is suggested that a report be made to a future meeting of this Committee to consider this approach and 'branding.'

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 As set out in the report.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These will be developed as the initiative/actions progress, however, Members will note that from existing budgets for the financial year 2012/13 a £3,000 contribution to the continuance of the Community Organisers is able to be made available for this initiative in Melton.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 None arising from this report, at this stage.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 The Community Organiser, together with aspects of other initiatives and actions explained above will have desired impacts upon improving the Council's current good record with respect to Community Safety.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 This report puts forward a slight variation to the Framework on equalities. Other services and initiatives, particularly the Community Organisers will have their own impact assessment dealt with Nationally.

9.0 RISKS

9.1

Probability ↓

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

Impact →

Risk No.	Description
1	Collocation fails to deliver service redesign
2	Community Organiser Programme cannot be fully funded

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Various levels of consultation with respect to the different matters raised within the report have been undertaken.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All

Contact Officer   Lynn Aisbett, Chief Executive
Date: 23 November 2012

Appendices :   A – Collocation Internal Management Arrangements

B – Equalities Action Plan – to follow

Background Papers: Notes of Strategic Parkside Board 24 September 2012
Notes of meeting with Community Organiser, Locality and VAL
Notes of meeting with LCC Scrutiny Member/email from Chair of Leicestershire Stronger
Communities Board
Turning the Tanker – Action Plans

Reference :   X : Committees\PFA