

# AGENDA ITEM 12

## POLICY, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2013

### REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### CORPORATE ISSUES

##### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief Members upon developments with certain issues that affect the Council and its Corporate operations.

##### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

**It is recommended that:-**

- 2.1 **The position with the submission of Expression of Interest for the “City Deal” be noted and that a report be made to the Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee at its next meeting.**
- 2.2 **The progress with the Supporting Leicestershire Families Programme be noted and that appropriate Authority be sought at the relevant time for the service delivery model.**
- 2.3 **The position with the Social Fund roll out be noted with regret and that the Council participates actively in any future discussions upon locality delivery.**

##### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

###### 3.1 “City Deal”

As Members may be aware the Government approached certain Cities such as Manchester and Birmingham in the first wave of the “City Deal” Programme to ascertain if those areas would be willing to enter into negotiations to take forward the concept of economic deals for City areas. These first arrangements were put in place during 2011/12. Latterly, the Government has considered a second wave of “City Deals” and has offered certain areas opportunity to respond by way of an ‘Expression of Interest’ to the concept. The Leicester, Leicestershire Economic Partnership (LLEP) has engaged in discussions to move forward the potential of a “City Deal” for Leicester and Leicestershire. The purpose of the proposal is to further develop the economic health of the Region and to focus on a unique selling point for developments. Discussions have taken place between the LLEP and other bodies including the County Council and the Districts to work up such an Expression of Interest.

Public Sector bodies were asked to support the submission, which was non-binding and indicative in relation to the areas it suggested could be included. The County Council and the Districts have supported the submission of the Expression of Interest by the LLEP in principal acknowledging that much detailed work and formal consideration will be needed before the “City Deal” is agreed.

Initial indications are that the submitted proposal will be considered by Government and a further announcement made on or around 11 February 2013. Following this announcement a more detailed report will be made to the Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee at its March meeting.

### 3.2 Social Fund

Members will recall that the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee at its last meeting approved the creation of a Countywide Social Fund which Melton would be asked by the County Council to deliver in its locality. That report indicated to Members that further work on Cross County Agreement was outstanding but that this Council wished to operate the Fund in the locality in order to create synergies and linkages with programmes such as Supporting Leicestershire Families and the delivery of other support funds such as the Council Tax Discretionary Fund and the Benefits Hardship Fund for those vulnerable people within the local community. Unfortunately, local agreement could not be reached upon the delivery of a coherent scheme in the locality.

Therefore, the County Council has moved toward the commissioning of a standalone scheme through an external provider. However, as part of the arrangement being put in place the County Council has negotiated roles for those Districts that wish to take part including referrals, signposting and coverage of delivery of the awards under the scheme. Melton will participate in these arrangements in order to gain whatever benefits are possible for local people from this external arrangement.

Also, the County Council has also indicated to its provider that it would wish to work through the first year of the arrangement to try and provide a more localised scheme in later years. Melton has agreed at the appropriate time to participate in these further negotiations in the hope that more localised service delivery creating the synergies mentioned above can be provided through those Councils who are willing to do so.

### 3.3 Supporting Leicestershire Families

As advised previously to Members the Supporting Leicestershire Families Board of Leicestershire Together has agreed that Melton Borough Council together with four other District Councils can proceed toward the finalisation of local delivery of this programme. Officers are considering final draft specifications and agreements to complete the arrangements in readiness for a formal start on or around 1 April 2013.

### 3.4 Community Organiser

Members are advised that the Parkside Partners were able to pull together the required match funding to continue the work of the remaining Community Organiser in Melton. As previously advised the post holder will be based with Voluntary Action Leicestershire but will work in the Melton locality primarily in year one with residents in Fairmead, in schools working on a couple of projects suggested by the Young Mayor and possibly with Probation Service users. The Councils Community Policy Officer will act as the point of contact for the Community Organiser and is currently preparing an induction programme for the post holder into the building particularly ensuring that linkages can be made with existing activity to maximise the added value of her work.

## 4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Each of the projects/programmes updated within this report are in line with the Councils Corporate Priorities related to Improving Places, particularly economic development and Supporting Vulnerable People particularly related to financial inclusion and young people.

## 5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Each of the projects specified are subject to their own financial appraisals and budget allocations as appropriate.

## 6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 Legal Agreements required will be subject to consultation with the Legal Officers.

## 7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 Certain of the projects outlined such as Supporting Leicestershire Families and the work of the Community Organiser could as their activity develops have a positive impact upon Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour within the Borough.

## 8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 Equalities Impact Assessments have/will be carried out at the appropriate time by the Lead Partner for the Projects mentioned.

## 9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 There are no specific additional risks arising from this overarching report on Council initiatives at this stage.

## 10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report other than the work of the Community Organiser could involve projects which support mitigation climate change if raised and promoted by Community members.

## 11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 Various consultations have been carried out by the Lead Partners. With respect to the Community Organiser activity consultation with Parkside Partners was carried out.

## 12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All

Contact Officer: Lynn Aisbett, Chief Executive  
Date: 17 January 2013

Appendices : None

Background Papers: Supporting Leicestershire Families – Melton Borough Council Proposal  
Supporting Leicestershire Families Board – Minutes  
Notes of meeting with Partners – Community Organiser  
Notes of final meeting of Social Fund Partnership

Reference : X : Committees\2012 13\PFA