

## POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

1 JULY 2014

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### CORPORATE ISSUES

##### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To brief and update Members upon certain corporate issues projects and programmes.

##### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

**It is recommended that:**

2.1 **The report be noted.**

2.2 **The fast moving process for the Transformation Challenge Bids be noted, as updated.**

2.3 **Progress and developments with respect to the “Agile” Council programme be reported to this committee on an Annual basis.**

##### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Since the previous meeting of this Committee, the Council has been offered a series of opportunities to Bid for, or apply for, monies through certain National programmes. Also, it has been invited to submit evidence to, or hold advisory visits for National bodies.

3.2 The first of these was a suggestion/proposal by colleagues from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) that the Council should make a Bid to take forward the rollout of the Local Services Support Framework (LSSF) which is to underpin the introduction of Universal Credit (UC). Initially, it was not considered that the Council met the criteria for the Bidding process, however, following discussions it was noted that the main issues for a Borough the size of Melton Mowbray related to the numbers of claimants who could participate within any trialling programme. The Me and My Learning Project was providing support services which link closely to the LSSF requirements as the Council participated in its development as a UC pilot.

3.3 The DWP canvassed county-wide for a partner to join with Melton and Blaby District Council has agreed to become part of the Bid to initially act as a “control” group to the Council’s programme delivered through Me and My Learning Centre and thereafter from the start of the next financial year to rollout the concept in the Blaby locality meeting their local needs. This would enable DWP to test the concept and rollout the project in the locality context which would meet the requirements of the LSSF. Melton would work with Blaby during the period of the project to assist with their rollout and to support, as required, the development of their ideas and programme.

3.4 Nationally there will only be six trialling sites Bids awarded. Of these one will be in Scotland and one in Wales with the remaining four awards to be for England, at least one of which should have a rural focus. It is believed that approximately 20 Bids have been made and by partnering with Blaby the Council met the essential criteria. To further enhance the Bid, the Council has cross-referenced its activity with West Lindsey District Council which has made a Bid based upon digital inclusion and extension. The two Councils approaches are complementary and if successful, will allow sharing of experience

and development of the approaches to be assimilated in each locality more quickly. It is expected that the outcome of the Bids will be known in late June/early July.

### 3.5 Transformation Challenge Awards

The Government has launched a Transformation Challenge Programme backed up by a series of awards which must be based on a cost benefit analysis return upon Capital/Revenue invested within the period of the Bid, usually 12 months or an acceptable period if longer. The Bids are broken down into categories and time periods. Expressions of interest must be made by 1 July 2014 for the 2015/16 programme with completed Bids submitted on 1 October. Officers have attended National and Regional Workshops upon the Government's cost benefit analysis approach and useful data is supplied by the New Economy Team housed at Manchester University.

- 3.6 The rules for this Bidding process also guide that one authority can only "lead" on one Bid but can be a "partner" in many. Appendix 1 to this report advises Members of the Council/Leicestershire's activity with respect to the Bidding process. It has been suggested to Officers that a further Bid linked to Me and My Learning extending the concept of earlier intervention and prevention leading to sustainable employment would meet requirements at this time and therefore a second complimentary Bid based around the project is being worked up and examined for a 2014/15 commencement which requires a full Bid including cost benefit analysis to be made by 1 July 2014 for commencement on 1 October 2014. Whilst this is challenging, your Officers, together with the Business Partner appointed under the Me and My Learning project to assist with its sustainability have taken this proposal forward.
- 3.7 A brief description of the Bids the Council is engaged with, together with those it is "leading" on is attached to Appendix 1 to this report. A review of capacity has taken place with respect to these Bids together with following the "partnership" approach as allowed within the process. The Council is therefore able to maximise its engagement with this process and therefore hopefully increase its chances in awards being made which will develop the Council's approach, particularly to its "people" services.
- 3.8 To place this in context and to assist Members attached at Appendix 2 is a representation of the Council's activities to assist and support people through their journey towards independent lifestyle. The table shows those cross-cutting activities such as work relating to healthy lifestyles, physical activity, financial and digital independence whilst indicating the projects which assist with life skills, social interaction and development of independence across the known "pathways" which sustain independent living. Officers have called this the '0-90ies' continuum of support and care and the "traffic light" system used shows the embedded nature within the Council services and those of partners of the support available.
- 3.9 Members will be very familiar with the projects which have been supported in recent years and also to a degree, how these have been integrated across Council and partner services to deliver effectively and efficiently. In recent years the focus has been on ensuring that the most economic method of delivery of the service is employed. Also, earlier and earlier intervention is being looked at to reduce demand, target services and ensure the best possible professional and clinical care is available to those most in need. Your Officers suggest that the framework offers transitional care and support to those people and families who require assistance to move through to effective social, financial and in current times, digital independence of public services which will then be able to meet their greater needs in times of crisis or during major life changes. The Locality Framework will be constantly reviewed and changing with service redesign working with partners and the local community to commission and provided adaptable services in a flexible manner which will meet changing needs.
- 3.10 Officers hope that the tabular representation of the work carried out by the Council and its

key partners, both illustrates the current integrated nature of services and the continued push towards that locality integration whilst respecting the needs and outcomes partner organisations will require. The key aim is to maximise the locality delivery of relevant services which meet local people's needs.

3.11 Allied to this as Members are aware, the Council's work has been acknowledged Nationally. The recent Public Services Transformation Network call for evidence from public sector bodies, particularly Councils concerning the transformation work they work engaged in, has resulted in a request to the Council to make submissions to the Network covering its integrated services, transformation programme around digital services and its people project activity. This evidence will be submitted by 10<sup>th</sup> July and a copy of the questions responded to is attached at Appendix 3. Also, the Local Government Association (LGA) arranged a visit with the Council to understand its role and activity around the Welfare Reform agenda however, the LGA Officer left the Council with a full understanding of the integrated way the Council tackles National Programmes in the context of local needs.

3.12 As Members are aware under-pinning this activity is the Council's approach to transformation, and continued review of services to promote efficient and effective working, particularly in the current economic climate. As part of this the Council has received reports on its approach to being an Agile Council, developing upon customer insight and intelligence, understanding local need and demand and business process re-engineering which enables services to be modernised and changed to meet those demands. These reports are presented to Members by T3. Members have been very supportive of this initiative and the work of the Council's T3 Team. The Team has requested that rather than the current six monthly report which is required, the report be annual in order that progress can be reported fully to Members once rather than repetitive information given. Management Team are supportive of this approach. Should any issues arise with the development of the approach of an Agile Council, reports will be made to this Committee and any intermediate progress as required will be reported through the Members Bulletin.

#### **4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Members will note that the content of this report closely follows the priorities set in relation to the Council's activities. Officers are ever vigilant to ensure that the opportunities that present themselves both locally, nationally and regionally are maximised in these difficult times to continue the Council's progress towards its agreed outcomes. This report illustrates how those opportunities are being maximised and how the priorities are being integrated and embedded into core service delivery to maximise support to meet the needs of local people.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Financial implications within this report relate primarily to capacity issues. Your Officers are mindful of this requirement and are managing the processes closely. However, it has to be acknowledged that the opportunities presented offer access to additional income streams for the Council as well as improving the Council's integrated working which it is considered will lead to further efficiencies. The Bidding process requires the Section 151 to be comfortable with the cost benefit analysis submitted in support of the Bids.

#### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 The Council has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Leicestershire County Council which enables the delegation of services in favour of each or either of the Councils to facilitate efficient, effective and productive working. It is possible that the MOU would be used to facilitate the delivery of services under certain areas of the Bids. The governance arrangements with respect to the DWP Bid, made in partnership with Blaby District Council are contained within the Bid and include locality partnership working.

**7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

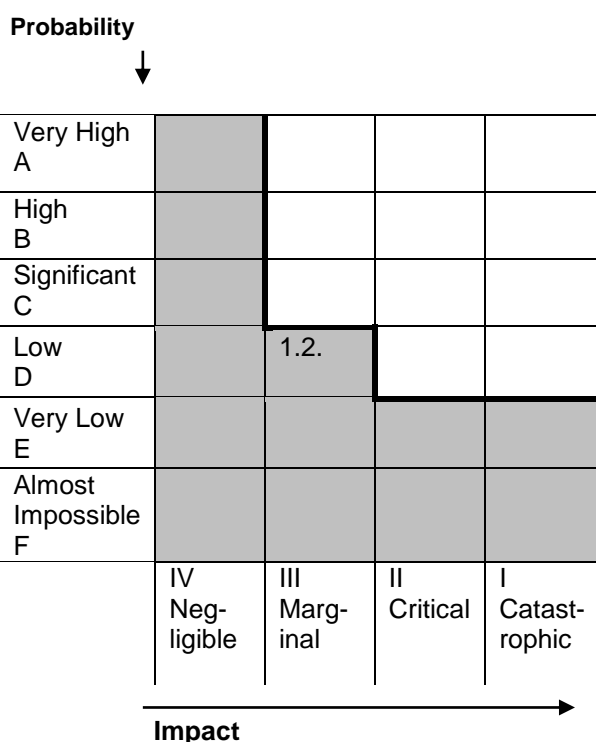
7.1 There are no specific issues arising from this report.

**8.0 EQUALITIES**

8.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report as Members are aware as individual projects are introduced an Equalities Impact Assessment is carried out to ensure that the needs of those with the Protected Characteristics are taken into account in the development and rollout of the initiatives themselves.

**9.0 RISKS**

9.1 The main risk is detailed below.



Risk No.	Description
1.	The Council or its partners are unsuccessful with the bid(s).
2.	The Council's capacity is stretched in relation to the number of bids which are successful.

**10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

**11.0 CONSULTATION**

11.1 Consultation with the Leaders of the Political Groups has taken place. Also engagement with Partners concerning the Bids by Lead Authorities has been carried out.

**12.0 WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All.

Contact Officer Lynn Aisbett, Chief Executive

Date: 19 June 2014

Appendices:

1. Transformation Challenge Award Bids
2. Melton Locality Framework 0-90's Supported Independence Transitional Framework.
3. Public Services Transformation Network Submission.

Background Papers:

1. Relevant Notes of Development Meetings for preparation of the Transformation Challenge Award Bids.
2. T3/Management Team Meeting Notes of 4 June and 16 June 2014.

Reference : X : Committees\PFA\June 2014\Item 12 LA Corporate Issues