

AGENDA ITEM 16

POLICY, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

7 OCTOBER 2013

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE ISSUES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of particular corporate activities which are developing and those requiring approval by Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- 2.1 **Members note the content of the report.**
- 2.2 **The Small Business Friendly Procurement Charter attached at Appendix 1 be approved.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Local Area Co-ordination

- 3.2 At County wide level the principle of Local Area Co-ordination which is a way of engaging with the community and local and voluntary organisations to involve them in local services and service delivery is being actively considered. The concept was developed in Australia looking at services and support for those with learning disabilities. This has developed further Internationally and several Councils/areas are adopting this approach to supporting service provision and delivery for the future.

- 3.3 The County Council have been looking at this concept and Melton Borough Council has been engaged and supported this approach. The Council considered it linked with the work it has been carrying out for a number of years, particularly with Neighbourhood Management and latterly through the Children's Centres with the partnerships with users around service design and provision. It is understood that further developments will take place with respect to this concept and your officers will remain engaged with these developments and report further matters through the Community and Social Affairs Committee.

3.4 Leicestershire Together

It is understood that there is a refresh of the outcome framework of Leicestershire Together, the County wide Local Strategic Partnership. This may include the refocusing of priorities as appropriate. As a member of Leicestershire Together, the Council will be engaged in this iterative process as will the Locality Partnership the Melton Community Partnership. Any implications of the Council's approach to its locality strategies, in particular the current Community Strategy will be reported through the Melton Community Partnership to this Committee.

3.5 Small Business Friendly Procurement Charter

The Federation of Small Businesses has developed the Small Business Friendly

Procurement Charter for approval and implementation by organisations to support and assist those small businesses in their area. The Charter, which is attached at Appendix 1 is designed to promote positive procurement between small businesses, public and private sector organisations. It provides an approach for commissioning bodies and those dealing with public procurement strategy and policy to ensure that small businesses have opportunities to engage and procure service delivery contracts and arrangements.

3.6 The Charter has been considered by the Welland Procurement Unit and the Service Team responsible for procurement, both consider the document to be supportive and proactive of small businesses, whilst acknowledging the structures and requirements on those in the needs of the public sector when carrying out procurement exercises.

3.7 It is suggested therefore that the Council authorise the signing of this Charter and that the Head of Central Services and those engaged in procurement work together to follow the Charter's principles and requirements. A County wide event is to be held on 3 October 2013 to which certain organisations will sign the Charter. As the Council is approving the Charter for implementation from the 7 October 2013, it is suggested that an offer could be made to the Federation of Small Businesses that a signing be held in Melton at a mutually convenient date.

3.8 **Policy and Corporate Implications**

3.9 The work on the Charter would fall within the Council's procurement policies and Contract Procedure rules as appropriate. Those documents will be reviewed and amended in the light of the adoption of the Charter.

3.10 The Council is mindful of the priorities and activities of the County wide Community Strategy in the development of its own partnership strategies and approach.

4.0 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 It is not anticipated that additional resources will be required in the implementation of the Charter. There are no other implications at this time.

5.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

5.1 In accordance with the Charter, the Council will review its Procedure Rules and Procurement Practices.

6.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

6.1 There are no particular implications arising from the report.

7.0 **EQUALITIES**

7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

8.0 **RISKS**

8.1 There are no specific risks to be identified in relation to these items, at this time.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

9.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

10.0 **CONSULTATION**

10.1 With respect to the Procurement Charter this will have been led by the Federation of Small Businesses.

11.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

11.1 All.

Contact Officer: Lynn Aisbett, Chief Executive
Date: 25 September 2013

Appendices : Small Business Friendly Procurement Charter: Appendix 1

Background Papers: Request by Federation of Small Businesses to Event 3 October 2013
Request by Federation of Small Businesses to Procurement Charter
Internal consideration of Charter
Leicestershire Together Meeting Communications

Reference : X : Committees\2013 14\PFA