

AGENDA ITEM 16

POLICY, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

10 JULY 2013

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE ISSUES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on particular Corporate Issues.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

2.1 **Members note in accordance with the delegation arrangements the exercise of delegated authority by the Chief Executive in relation to two matters, set out within the report.**

2.2 **Members approve that officers submit an Expression of interest (EOI) for the Housing Related Support Service in Melton in response to Leicestershire County Council's request for EOI's for this service in Melton.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Exercise of Delegated Authority

During the period since the last Corporate Issues report to this Committee, the Chief Executive has exercised her urgent delegated authority in consultation with the Chairmen of the relevant Committees and the Group Leaders on two occasions. In accordance with the delegated authority these matters are reported to Committee at the first available opportunity. This report therefore completes the delegation loop. The areas of delegation were:

3.2 Change of Duties and Authorisation of Recruitment

As Members are aware the Team Leader Community Safety resigned from the Council to take up promotion at another Council. This officer's role had been critical in the development and assimilation of the Supporting Leicestershire Families (SLF) arrangements into the Council. Prior to the officer's resignation discussions had been taking place as to how to best develop the Council's work to take maximum advantage of the changes.

3.3 The proposal was to create a focus on early intervention and prevention and bring together certain relevant services to ensure that not only was the SLF work properly assimilated into the Council's structures but that the opportunity provided by this funding and capacity was used to develop the Council's approach in this area.

3.4 Therefore, the Chief Executive requested support of the Group Leaders and the Chairman of the Community & Social Affairs Committee to move this process forward with the revised duties and approach.

3.5 The reasons for urgency were the need to continue to support the development of the SLF programme within the Council, taking advantage of opportunities to change and

improve that approach as well as the fact that other vacancies within that section of the Council created pressures at management level and created further risks for the Council as an employer.

3.6 The majority of Members supported this small change and the necessary recruitment processes have commenced.

3.7 **Procurement Process for Oracle System**

3.8 The Council had programmed planned its upgrade of the Oracle software which supports its finance systems. This had been appropriately planned but due to major impacts on the Council's capacity and resilience the upgrade timetable was affected. The Council's new IT arrangements through Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council enabled an alternative procurement approach. However, both Councils had agreed that this would not be included within the executed Delegation Arrangements between the them with each instance of procurement being looked at in relation to the needs of the Council and the offer which the managing Council or indeed the provider would offer. This was urgent due to the loss in time in the procurement approach.

3.9 In relation to the smooth running of the procurement of this upgrade Members were asked to support the authorisation of the process being run through Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. The Chairman of this Committee and the two remaining Group Leaders unanimously supported this approach to assist the efficient finalisation of the procurement.

3.10 **Supporting People**

3.11 At their meeting of 12th June 2013 Members of Leicestershire County Council Cabinet recommended that a low level Housing Related Support Service for older people be commissioned that:

- (i) is equally available to older people across all tenures;
- (ii) supports people to maintain their independence, health and wellbeing by giving practical support and signposting to other services;
- (iii) remains in place only as long as the individual has a need for the service, moving onto other people if/when these needs have been met;
- (iv) is prioritised for those most in need;
- (v) is available to individuals where it meets an early intervention and prevention need and where an individual wishes to receive it.

3.12 At a meeting of 4th July 2013, Officers have been advised that the service will be split across the 7 districts and will include all service users within that district regardless of tenure. Furthermore that the current timescales suggest that Expression of Interest will be sought sometime in August 2013. Members are requested to approve a recommendation that allows officers to submit an Expression of Interest. At this stage no [financial or otherwise] commitment is made by this Council and members of Community & Social Affairs Committee will be updated on this at their meeting in September 2013.

3.13 **Feasibility Study of Life Skills Centre**

3.14 This Committee has been advised previously and authorised the use of a small budget to investigate the feasibility of the use of part of Phoenix House as a Life Skills centre. The building has been successfully used by Sainsbury's as part of their local recruitment approach with significant numbers of potential employees receiving Life Skills training to enable them to be interviewed and considered for jobs within the new store. This success has encouraged the officers to believe that the proposal has merit and work is continuing on the major proposal with an interim solution being considered to pilot for early introduction in October of this year.

3.15 Support to Reduce Re-offending

3.16 The Police and Crime Commissioner has rolled out his Commissioning Plan for the coming years. Officers have noted the opportunity for a bid to be made to make sustainable its current level of support to re-offenders in the longer term. Members will be made aware of the bidding process and its outcome in due course.

3.17 City Deal

3.18 Discussions are continuing at the appropriate level with engagement of Leaders of all Leicester and Leicestershire. A further meeting is scheduled to take place at the end of this month and appropriate reports to the Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee or this Committee as appropriate will be made.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The above matters sit comfortably with the Council's overall policy approach of improving places, supporting people and ensuring its Council is well run.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial implications of the delegated authority and the updates given will be assimilated into existing budgets. With respect to the Feasibility Study and the Re-offending project external resources are being sought to make these programmes sustainable in the longer term.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report other than the completion of "delegation loop" with respect to the urgent delegated authority items as required by the Constitution and the intention at appropriate times to ensure any agreements or grant arrangements are appropriately examined for their legal requirements.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 This support to offenders to reduce re-offending has an impact community safety.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 As the issues mentioned above are developing policy approaches consideration will be given to the need for an Equalities Impact Assessment at the appropriate time.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 Risks (if any) associated with the matters raised in this report will be dealt with as part of the relevant projects or recruitment.

10.0 CONSULTATION

10.1 There are no specific issues on this matter arising from the updates contained within this

report.

11.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

11.1 All.

Contact Officer Lynn Aisbett, Chief Executive
Date: 4 July 2013

Appendices : None

Background Papers: Recorded exercises of delegated authority July 2013

Reference : X : Committees\2013 14\PFA