

7 JULY 2015

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE ISSUES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the development of certain Corporate Issues of relevance to the Council.**

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- 2.1 The current position with respect to the plans to submit a proposal to Government to establish a Combined Authority be noted.**
- 2.2 Members approve the addition of a Procurement Compliance Manager to the establishment funded from the five partner contributions; for Melton this will be met from within existing budgets.**
- 2.3 The exercise of the Chief Exercise Urgent Delegated Authority with respect to the requested early start on site for the four play areas in Melton Mowbray be noted.**
- 2.4 The progress of Melton Extending to Excellence be noted.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Proposal to establish a Combined Authority

- 3.1.1** As Members are aware from the recent information in the press and the Briefing Note issued to all Members by the Leader, discussions have taken place between the Leaders of the Local Authorities in Leicestershire and the City Mayor concerning the opportunity to submit a proposal to develop a Combined Authority for the City and County. The City Mayor and the Leaders agreed in principal to take forward the proposals to develop further for submission possibly in September for Government consideration.
- 3.1.2** Government has made it clear that it wishes Regions with relevant economic geography to work together across administrative boundaries and more parochial needs to further develop local economies for the benefit of local businesses and people. Members will be aware of the well-developed proposals with respect to Greater Manchester and the developing aspirations of other Northern areas such as “One North-East” and the Eastern and Western areas of Yorkshire.
- 3.1.3** It is considered that the successful and developing economy in the East Midlands, the good relationship between all public authorities and with the Leicester Leicestershire Economic Partnership (LLEP), which have seen the introduction of much praised initiatives such as Supporting Leicestershire Families as well as the co-terminosity of many public services which can be better strategically co-ordinated within such a body, give the background for further, more detailed work during the Summer to build the case for the proposal, showing what we wish to achieve and how we will be able to do it.
- 3.1.4** The proposed Combined Authority would be strategic in nature and would work towards developing and delivering upon the aspirations of the communities of Leicester and Leicestershire. Ultimately the wish would be to seek devolved powers and funding from government to have better strategic oversight, better co-ordination and better delivery of

the strategic plans. The aim is to add value for additional delivery through the co-ordinated approach. The Leaders over the Summer months will develop the concept, building on this current thinking, however it is known that the devolution conversation is linked and separate work with a much longer time line with stringent requirements from Government, as would be expected.

3.1.5 A copy of the current draft Proposal, which remains work in progress at the present time is attached at Appendix A.

3.2 Melton Extending to Excellence (ME2E)

3.2.1 The development of ME2E continues across the Council. The change in management arrangement has taken place with the establishment of the Operational Management Team with monthly "Strategic Management Team" meetings which the Corporate Management Team attends. The aim of this is use capacity appropriately to give clarity within the direction of the Council in relation to its development of operational delivery as well as the Corporate Direction Travel.

3.2.2 The Third Tier Group of Officers (T3) has continued with work with Management Team in the development of the framework to move the Council forward across the range of activities identified as needing attention within the ME2E Programme. There is an understanding that the "Melton Manager" is somewhat different and this needs to be accepted and identified within the competencies and traits of a Melton Manager needs to exhibit. However, there is an acknowledgement within the organisation that many of the skills which need to be developed more broadly exist in certain services and therefore a strong element of in-house training and mentoring will be developed within the Programme, as well as utilisation of effective external expertise as required. Care is being taken to ensure that any support brought in to the Council fits within the ethos and development of the Melton Manager in the way the group agrees.

3.2.3 The Preliminary analysis of the staff survey has been collated, this has indicated clear linkages to the ME2E Programme and the Chief Executive has made a presentation to staff at her two monthly briefings and to the T3 Group to illustrate those linkages and to ensure they are included proactively within the Programme Activities. Members are requested to recall that the Programme is to be financed through the approved Training Budget.

3.2.4 As is the usual practice, a formal presentation on the Staff Survey will pass through the Joint Staff Working Group and this Committee as required during the next cycle of meeting.

3.3 Exercise of Chief Executive's Urgent Delegated Authority

3.3.1 In accordance with the request of the Community and Social Affairs Committee the Chief Executive has exercised her Urgent Delegated Authority as provided within the Constitution to enable the works to the four Melton Mowbray Play Areas authorised by the Committee to have expedited entry into the Council's Programme to allow the works to be let.

3.4 The Melton Model

3.4.1 In recent months Senior Officers of the Council have continued speaking at national conferences on the Melton Model and experience in implementing change and integrated service management. Corporate Management Team have been asked to lead a conference for colleagues in Hampshire across a range of public sector bodies to explain further the Melton approach following their successful visit in April 2015.

3.5 Welland Procurement Unit

3.5.1 The Welland Procurement Unit is a shared service provided by Melton to six councils including ourselves being: Rutland County Council, East Northamptonshire Council, Blaby District Council, Wellingborough Council and Corby Borough Council. The costs of the

staffing and resources are split equally between the six councils.

- 3.5.2 Following a review of the Procurement Unit structure by the Council on behalf of the Welland Procurement Board, Welland Chief Executives/Joint Committee, an additional position is proposed for the unit. All of the partner councils are in the process of signing off a small additional requirement which will be in the region of £3-£5,000 for this financial year and a similar sum up to a maximum of £7,000 in 2016/17. These arrangements will facilitate a transition in our resources and succession planning within the team.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The National Agenda relating to Combined Authorities and devolution is set out within the body of this report, together with the Leicester and Leicestershire activity. There will be the development of a programme and work plan to enable locality planning.
- 4.2 Further the current developments of ME2E are also set out in the body of this report and as said previously, the Committee will be kept advised as to progress with this activity.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications at this stage development of the Combined Authority. The Districts are co-ordinating their activity through the Lead Chief Executive and their own internal resources working alongside those of the City and County.
- 5.2 As indicated above ME2E Programme is currently financed through the approved Training Budget.
- 5.3 Allocations for the works to the four play areas were agreed by the Community and Social Affairs Committee, the exercise of the Delegated Authority referred to the inclusion of such allocations within the Council's authorised Capital Programme to enable the work to be moved forward.
- 5.4 The financial implications of the structural change to the Welland Procurement Unit will be dealt with within the existing resources.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

- 6.1 The Powers exist in earlier legislation to enable local authorities and other partners to come together to explore the delivery of certain services through joint working and approach such as the Combined Authority. The increased powers the Government would wish to grant to such bodies requires the passage of legislation through Parliament.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 7.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

- 8.1 A formal equalities impact assessment will be carried out by the Partners at the appropriate stage of development of the proposals.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 To consider and give any Risks related to this report and if there are risks to complete the tables below. If there are no risks identified, then delete the table

Probability						Risk No.	Description
Very High A							
High B				3		1	Proposals for Combined Authority not acceptable to all parties.
Significant C				2		2	Government does not devolve necessary powers to Leicester and Leicestershire as requested.
Low D			1			3	Corporate Risk: Challenge of cultural issues which could undermine our ability to transform the Council and delivery of the required savings.
Very Low E							
Almost Impossible F							
		IV Negligible	III Marginal	II Critical	I Catastrophic		
		Impact →					

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no particular implications arising from the items contained within this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 As Members are aware the Local Authority Leaders met and consultation took place with the City Mayor prior to moving forward with the current proposals.

11.2 With respect to ME2E the relevant groups within the Council particularly T3 and teams of staff are being consulted upon the development and rollout of the Programme.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All

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Date: 26 June 2015

Appendices : Appendix 1 –Current Draft Combined Authority Proposal.

Background Papers: Press release – 25-06-2015
Chief Executive Briefing June 2015
T3 Note June 2015

Reference :