

POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

3 DECEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE ISSUES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring to Members attention certain corporate issues which have developed in the intervening period since the last report and to seek approval to the Partnership Evaluation Protocol and the Policy Statement and Procedure/Toolkit.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- 1. The Partnership Evaluation Protocol including the Policy Statement and Procedure/Toolkit be approved for use on a three yearly cycle commencing in the financial year 2014/15.**
- 2. The progress with Local Area Co-ordination be noted, and a further report on this matter be reported to Community and Social Affairs Committee at the appropriate time.**
- 3. The further initiatives be noted with reports to the relevant Policy Committees, as required.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Ministerial Visit:

Job Centre Plus hosted the opening of their co-located services in Parkside with a visit from the Minister of Employment, Esther McVey. The Minister attended this opening as the Council has been advised that this co-location is the first to take place in an integrated way with a large range of partners. This is the opportunity that the Parkside building offers to partners. The Minister also asked to be shown round Parkside so she could assess for herself how the integration works. The feedback the Council has had has been very positive with the Minister indicating through civil servants that she was impressed with how the co-location was organised and how it helped people particularly into work.

- 3.2 Following the visit the Chief Executive made a presentation to the Regional Management Team of Job Centre Plus and once again the Council's approach to the delivery of co-located and aligned services was very much appreciated. At that meeting the Council was advised that further consideration would be given to a grant award to the Council to assist with the feasibility, design and planning for the Me and My Learning Centre reported elsewhere on this agenda.

3.3 Melton in Bloom:

The organisers of Melton in Bloom have advised the Council that they wish to make a concerted effort in future years to reach the "Gold" standard. Council Officers have worked very closely with the Melton in Bloom organisers and volunteers and will look at how the Council may be able to further assist with this aspiration through preparation of a proposal which will be presented to the Regional Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

3.4 **Dementia Friendly Borough:**

In line with its priority of Supporting Vulnerable People, the Council has moved forward with training its staff to be Dementia Friends, inviting partner staff to such events to develop an understanding across organisations as to who has received the awareness training and to consider closer working to assist. To enable this the Council is currently encouraging staff to train as Dementia Champions in certain disciplines within the Council to take the initiative further in services.

3.5 The Council is currently encouraging further partners, the BID and will raise awareness with Parish Councils to spread the word and hopefully support across the Borough. To facilitate this the Council is considering joining the Dementia Awareness Action Alliance which is no cost to the Council and engagement will be facilitated within existing capacity. An Action Plan approach is encouraged and this will be presented to Community and Social Affairs Committee.

3.6 **Local Area Co-ordination**

This was reported as a developing initiative at the last meeting and that the method of rollout was being considered. We are now advised that a pilot approach with 2/3 Localities is unlikely to be the approach, however an across County Programme is a potential opportunity based on the localities.

3.7 As previously said Melton would be very positive about such an approach particularly in its rural areas and priority neighbourhoods.

3.8 **Partnership Evaluation:**

On a three yearly basis, the Council reviews its engagement with Partnerships. This ensures that capacity and resources are being allocated to those partnerships which are most closely aligned with the Council's priorities and Direction of Travel as well as those which through their Partnership organisation have the capacity to assist or are required for the appropriate approved delivery of services and/or approach for local people and businesses.

3.9 Good practice indicates that the Council should have a procedure for dealing with this evaluation. The current procedure ranks importance and impact on Partnerships but does not look at the detail of alignment nor the specifics of evaluating performance and Partnership approach.

3.10 It is proposed therefore, that a revised Protocol including a Policy Statement together with an Evaluation procedure/toolkit be approved to modernise and target the Council's approach. The Protocol/Policy Statement is set out at Appendix A to this report and the procedure/toolkit in Appendix B. The Protocol also includes a Checklist for entering new Partnerships which will set the baseline for evaluation.

3.11 If Members are minded to approve this revised approach, Officers will carry out the evaluation in 2014/15 with any impacts or issues being reported as part of the budget process for 2015/16. Whilst the Evaluation/Toolkit is comprehensive in its approach, it does require Officers to carefully analyse the Partnerships the Council is committed to. It would be proposed that the Evaluation would be carried out on a three yearly cycle, unless there were any issues that became apparent with a Partnership during that period when the review would be brought forward. If a change in a Partnership approach was considered appropriate a Report where necessary would be made to the relevant Policy Committee.

4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The proposed Protocol and Policy develops and produces a more robust approach to Partnership Evaluation which is of greater significance in times of challenge to budgets and

capacity to produce appropriate targeting of our resources.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no particular financial implications arising from this report. Where projects or future activity has been highlighted, separate reports on these projects/activities will be made to this or other relevant Committees and any financial implications dealt with at that time.

5.2 The implementation of the Partnership Evaluation Protocol has no financial implications, however, any that come to light through the Evaluation in 2014/15 will be reported through the budget setting process and/or relevant Committees.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Those which are relevant to individual projects or the proposed Partnership evaluation will be reported through to Members in the usual way.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report, save that certain Partnerships which may be reviewed will have a community safety focus.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 The Check and Challenge Group have considered the Partnership Protocol Policy Statement and Procedure/Toolkit and determined as a result of the overarching nature of the Protocol, no Equalities Impact Assessment is required.

9.0 RISKS

9.1

Probability



Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D		1		
Very Low E		2		
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Negligible	III Marginal	II Critical	I Catastrophic

Impact →

Risk No.	Description
1	Failure to adequately review could result in ineffective partnerships.
2	Supporting Vulnerable People actions are slow to get Partnership support thus reducing effectiveness.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Management Team and T3 have been involved in the development of the Partnership Evaluation Protocol Procedure/Toolkit and the Equalities Check and Challenge Group have reviewed the implications.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All, with particular reference to the Melton Mowbray Wards for the item on Melton in Bloom.

Contact Officer Lynn Aisbett
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Date: 21 November 2013

Appendices : Appendix A: Partnership Evaluation Protocol
 Appendix B: Partnership Evaluation Procedure/Toolkit

Background Papers: MT discussions: Partnership Evaluation. Check and Challenge Group Meeting Notes.

Reference : X : Committees\pfa031213