

RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

16 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

LEICESTERSHIRE TOGETHER ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONING HUB

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the newly formulated countywide overarching environmental group the Leicestershire Together 'Environmental Commissioning Hub'

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members note the content of this report**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Leicestershire Together is a partnership made up of the county's 8 local councils, the NHS, the Police, the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, the Chamber of Commerce, the Learning and Skills Council, Connexions, the equivalent Leicester City Partnership and the voluntary sector. The aim of the partnership is to improve the infrastructure and lives of the county and its residents.
- 3.2 During 2010 Leicestershire Together requested that one of the counties foremost environmental groups ENABLE (Environmental Action For A Better Leicestershire) undertake a review of all the various environmental partnerships and other similar groups within Leicestershire.
- 3.3 The review considered each partnership and group in terms of its purpose effectiveness and efficiency and determined that a better way of steering and overseeing strategic environmental and sustainable development within the county was achievable
- 3.4 One of the main outcomes from that review was a view that a number of the counties environmental groups and partnerships overlapped, had become ineffective, had lost direction or had become primarily forums for debate.
- 3.5 As a result Leicestershire Together determined that a new single overarching body the Leicestershire Together 'Environmental Commissioning Hub' (ECH) be formed.
- 3.6 The ECH has been established to :
- Provide strategic overview and direction for the groups reviewed within a single overarching body
 - Create a single body able to embrace and co-ordinate action and development for the various and wide ranging aspects of environmental service delivery and activity within the county
 - Allow for joined up environmental development aims and objectives
 - Provide a forum in which strategic synergies and interrelationships can be debated
 - Determine the extent, nature and benefits of pooling or joining up budgets with reference to shared services and joint working opportunities
- 3.7 Attached as Appendix A is the latest organisational chart for the ECH

3.8 Attached as Appendix B is a document that provides details of the ECH groups :

- Terms of Reference
- Overall purpose
- Governance
- Analysis & Vision
- Planning & Prioritisation
- Management & Acquisition
- Strategic & Operational Review
- Communication & Lobbying
- Direction of Travel Groups with details of the composite groups strategic outcome responsibilities
- Those groups :Overall purpose ,Governance, Analysis & Vision , Planning & Prioritisation, Management & Acquisition, Strategic & Operational Review, Communication & lobbying
- Group membership – specifically The Waste Partnership, Climate change groups Natural & Historic Environment Partnership (possible organisations)

4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 If the ECH develops to a point that requires pooled funding or joint budgets further reporting back to the individual authorities the group is comprised of will be required , however at this time there are no direct policy or corporate implications as a result of this report

5.0 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct financial or other resource implications as a direct result of this report

6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 There are no direct legal or powers implications as a direct result of this report

7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no direct community safety implications as a direct result of this report

8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 There are no direct equality implications as a direct result of this report

9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 There are no direct risks associated with this report

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 The ECH will be the main strategic shaper for Leicestershire in terms of the availability and delivery of Environmental and sustainable services .and accordingly the nature of those service provisions and the ways in which they are delivered will have an impact upon Climate change . As such the ECH is likely to be one of the main climate change influencing bodies within the county

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 The full establishment of the ECH is expected shortly There has been considerable debate and consultation within all the authorities groups and bodies involved , and further feedback regarding the proposed structure , remit and governance of the group is still being received

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 The activity of the ECH may have an impact anywhere within the county and as such t may have an impact on any or all of the boroughs wards

Contact Officer Raman Selvon

Date: 2 March 2011

Appendices : Appendix A – Organisational Chart
Appendix B – ECH Groups

Background Papers: N/A

Reference : X : Committees\REEA\2010-11\160311