

## POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

7 DECEMBER 2011

### REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### CORPORATE ISSUES

##### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members upon Corporate Issues including the regular review of the Improvement Plan, Performance Management Update, Countywide issues and a report back on the discussions with the Rural Community Council (RCC).

##### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The progress report upon the Improvement Plan be noted.**
- 2.2 **The Committee review the Improvement Plan on or before its meeting in June 2012 to update it in line with current Council aspirations and requirements following the move to Parkside, work with Partners and the Countywide position.**
- 2.3 **The Performance update be noted.**
- 2.4 **The recommended area of activity with the Rural Community Council be agreed and a Grant Award equal to 1/3 of the previous Annual Award be made. (£1,430)**

##### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 At each of its meetings the Council receives a report upon a section of the Improvement Plan. At this meeting the report covers the "Service" section of the Plan. This part of the plan is attached at Appendix A. At the current time the Plan is divided into sections covering "Leadership", "New Ways of Working and Change", and "Services." The Improvement Plan was agreed by Members in April 2011 for a period of 1 year to be reviewed at the close of the first year of the new administration. It is therefore proposed that the Improvement Plan be reviewed and presented to this Committee for approval at a meeting prior to June 2012. Officers are happy to answer any questions upon the Appendix as appropriate.
- 3.2 As reported generally to this Committee the Council is considering a pilot process for a new Performance Management System. Oversight has been carried out by the Performance Management Task Group of the Overview, Scrutiny and Audit Committee. The Task Group has met and received a presentation of the system and was particularly interested in the "whole system" approach to Performance Management lifting the review of Performance from monitoring towards management of the integrated aspects of service delivery including improvement.

The Task Group Members were particularly interested in the RAG Rating System which is to include a "Blue" rating for services which are perceived as meeting or exceeding their targets. Members believe that these service areas should also be reviewed on a regular basis to see if further challenging service improvement could be reached or more efficiency in performance provided. Also, the Members endorsed the approach of developing at an appropriate date in 2012 the proposal of "Communication Cells" relating to relevant Neighbourhood areas which would introduce an element of "real time" Performance Management and development.

- 3.3 It was agreed by the Task Group that they would report to the Parent Committee and thereafter to this Committee in June and September 2012.
- 3.4 At a Countywide level the Leicestershire Together Commissioning Framework is beginning to take shape. A copy of the Framework, as it presently stands, is attached Appendix B. The Council and its Partners through the Melton Community Partnership are required to assimilate into this Framework as a Locality provider. The District Councils have been clear with colleagues at the County that their delivery plans will related specifically to Locality Priorities. In order to ensure this properly managed each Local Strategic Partnership is asked to provide a Commissioning Plan by 31 March 2012. This Plan will relate to the selected Locality Priorities from the Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy and also to the Commissioning Board Commissioning Plans. It is for this reason that it is suggested that the Council's revised Improvement Plan may need to be presented to Members at its June 2012 meeting rather than March 2012 to ensure proper assimilation of this Countywide work
- 3.5 Finally, the Chief Executive and the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods was required by this Committee at its last meeting to consider areas of work to offer to the Rural Community Council to carry out within the Borough which would add value to the Councils work and not create duplication with other Countywide activity. Consideration was given to this matter and the Chief Executive and Head of Service have proposed that the RCC be requested to carry out a Rural Deprivation study based on data provided to them by ACRE from a National Study data carried out by Oxford University. The Council has certain deprivation data but this is mostly based on its Urban areas. One of the recommendations from the review of Council structures was that an adequate understanding of the problems associated with the Rural areas within the Borough be completed. This Study will enable the Council to fulfil that requirement. Also, in connection with the Councils equalities preparation for the inspection in March 2012 it has been suggested that this work around deprivation could also cover certain issues related to equality matters. As this latter proposal has been put forward without consultation with the Countywide Access to Services Working Group it is suggested that this piece of work is provisionally added prior to consideration of work by County colleagues to avoid the suggestion of duplication of activity required by Members.
- 3.6 It is therefore proposed that the Head of Service, in consultation with the Chief Executive work up the proposal for a primarily Desktop Rural Deprivation Study based on the national data which only RCC's have access to and this work be linked to the Councils developing approach to the Mosaic classifications to enable better consideration and development of services. Furthermore, that the Head of Service consider the proposal with respect to Rural Equalities activity.

#### **4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 As set out within the body of the report.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 It is proposed that should the RCC accept the detail of this proposal then a third of the Annual Grant allocation be made to the organisation to facilitate carrying out the Study and associated work. This sum is £1,430 and can be met from within existing budgets.

#### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

- 6.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## 7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 Whilst there are no specific implications arising from this report, it is possible that the Study may highlight issues which would be dealt with in accordance with existing Council Procedures.

## 8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 As set out within the body of the report it is possible that a strand of the work allocated to the RCC, should they decide to accept it could add to the Councils understanding of Equalities issues which are applicable in the Rural areas of the Borough.

## 9.0 RISKS

### 9.1 Probability

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Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D		2		
Very Low E			1	
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

→  
Impact

Risk No.	Description
1	Leicestershire Together Commissioning Framework, impacts adversely on local delivery.
2	Council links with RCC reduce due to inability to agree tasks/award

## 10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## 11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Preliminary consultation has been carried out with the Executive Director of the RCC and he has reported the Councils proposals to the Trust Board. Neither meeting has indicated any adverse comment with respect to the proposal. As indicated in the body of the report it is proposed to ensure that the Access to Services Working Group are aware of the proposals concerning service issues prior to allocation of the work.

11.2 The Leicestershire Together Commission Board has carried out consultation upon the Framework and the LSP and the Council responded.

## 12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

### 12.1 All

Contact Officer: Lynn Aisbett, Chief Executive  
Date: 29 November 2011

Appendices: Appendix A – Improvement Plan: Services  
Appendix B – Leicestershire Together Commissioning Framework

Background Papers: 1 – Informal notes of meeting with RCC Executive Director  
2 – Relevant notes of District Chief Executives relating to Locality Planning  
3 – Relevant minutes of Leicestershire Together Commissioning Board

Reference : X : Committees\PFA\2011 12\071211