

RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

7 MARCH 2012

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES SERVICE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Members for consideration an opportunity to work with a number of Leicestershire Authorities and the County Council in the establishment of a Joint Economic Development Initiatives Service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Member's consider the proposal and whether they wish the Council to enter into the arrangement for the provision of service, to be funded from the Corporate Priorities Reserve.

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Leicestershire County Council has approached the Leicestershire Districts for their interest in accessing a resource (to be employed by the County Council) who would provide support to the Districts/County in the development of Economic Development Initiatives.

- 3.2 This would involve employing a resource to develop strategic responses for the County Council and currently 4 District Councils to maximise Economic Development opportunities that would seek to progress the development of the Leicestershire economy through:

- Industrial property investment;
- Rural estate investment;
- Considering other assets/opportunities;
- Site and place based actions plans
- Planning policies;
- Transport policies and investments;
- Engagements with local and national development sector

- 3.3 Key areas of work would be as follows:

- Working with a wide range of individuals, teams, services and agencies in a constructive way to achieve positive outcomes for each Council
- Developing a full understanding of the economic potential of the County/Districts and barriers to it realisation.
- Dissemination and awareness of national developments and those that apply to Leicestershire.

The resource would specifically look at:

- Development potential
- The position of landowners and developers
- The potential to lever in additional investment

- The potential of different investment approaches and vehicles

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This resource could positively support the Council in the attainment of Economic Development and Regeneration, creating employment and skills development opportunities.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 It is proposed that the postholder would be employed by Leicestershire County Councillor for the period up to 31 March 2013.

5.2 The arrangement will be subject to review in December 2012 by all parties but one Council would review its continued involvement by 30 September 2012.

5.3 Leicestershire County Council would invoice the Council for £9,000 for the first 6 months of the period and £9,000 each for the second 6 months of the period or £11,250 each if one specific Council decided not to continue the arrangement beyond 30 September 2012.

5.4 The post holder will share their time equally between the five Authorities and a work with a Lead Officer nominated by each Council, which for this Council would be the Strategic Director (CM). These Lead Officers will meet for a joint review of progress every 2 months and the appointed person will draw up and maintain an Action Plan with milestones, to guide their activities and to assist review, in liaison with Lead Officers.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 The Council already has an arrangement in place with the County Council that would facilitate this agreement coming into place.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no specific Community Safety implications.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 There are no specific Equalities issues.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 There are no specific risks, this opportunity provides a route for maximising opportunities.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no specific Climate Change implications.

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 Management Team has been consulted.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All Wards are affected.

Contact Officer Lynn Aisbett – Chief Executive
Christine Marshall – Strategic Director
Date: 29 February 2012

Appendices : None

Background Papers: None

Reference : X : Committees\Cttees, Council and Sub Cttees\REEA\070312