

AGENDA ITEM 9

POLICY, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

26 JANUARY 2016

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE ISSUES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief members upon the development of certain Corporate Issues since the last meeting of the Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 **The report and the progress reported therein, be noted.**
- 2.2 **An Efficiency approach for the Council be presented to the June cycle of committees.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Since the last meeting of this Committee in early December 2015 the Council has received further detail of its settlement, the implications of which have been explained elsewhere in reports on this agenda, however the ability to move towards a balanced budget for 2016/17 gives the Council an opportunity to regroup and develop further plans to deal with the challenges set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. In particular, a first stage of implementation of that plan is set out in the approaches proposed to Members in relation to the Councils Face To Face services in key areas of supporting vulnerable people.
- 3.2 The Government has indicated that it may require from Council's Efficiency Statement which it suggests will be in simplified form which shows the direction of travel of each Council to meet the challenges of the potential four year settlement. The Officers will prepare a plan which will be submitted to the June cycle of Committees setting out how this can be achieved. It is intended that the plan will also inform the detail of the preparation of any Efficiency Statement government may direct the Council to provide.
- 3.3 Melton Extending to Excellence (ME2E)
- Progress towards a better understanding of particular issues within the organisation which hold back staff activity and/or support and sustain behaviours which potentially undermine the Councils direction of travel is reaching its final stage. The service Self Assessments have been completed and service/team action plans developed in relation to specific areas. From this an overarching corporate approach will develop which will feed into training needs, appraisal processes, and project delivery to give a more coherent approach across the Council to key priorities and programmes.
- 3.4 Individual case studies are being developed by services and teams to illustrate the

varied impact of the three Themes of ME2E across the Council. These will be publicised within the Corporate Messenger and be reported to Members particularly through this report as appropriate.

3.5 Combined Authority

As Members will recall this Council was the last to approve proposals for the Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority. Following this stage the Proposal was fully published on relevant websites as advised by Government and discussions scheduled to deal with the negotiations surrounding the implementation of the Combined Authority. It is expected that the discussions will also cover the future opportunities for devolution and will also build upon opportunities for combined working between the partners in accordance with existing legislation.

3.6 National Interest in the Councils Activities

As Members are aware several Councils across the country have shown interest in how the Council has developed its integrated working in Parkside and extended that to Me And My Learning at Phoenix House. Since early December the Corporate Management Team has attended an Away Day run by Havant and Hampshire Councils together with their partners to promote better integrated working to meet the organisations respective outcomes in their areas. This was an event organised around the Melton approach with three workshops been delivered by the CMT covering data and insight information management, how to make a building work and most importantly the vision leadership and direction of travel that is required from within the Council. The event was well received and links will continue with Havant in the future possibly developing into areas of mutual interest.

3.7 In January a visit was held with Bath and North East Somerset a unitary authority from the South West. The Council were particularly interested in the Me And My Learning Programme and its impact and outcomes on individuals and the community, but also colleagues were interested in the Councils economic development activity with its relationships with Small and Medium Sized businesses and how discussions had commenced around programmes for up skilling local workers to take better employment opportunities. The visit also enabled the Council to understand the success of integrated working in Parkside which illustrated particularly working between health, housing and social care as well as the improved integration with Early Help services which has developed within recent months.

3.8 The Chief Executive has been asked to be a Member of the Centre of Excellence for Information Sharing Chief Executive's Group. This is a small number of Chief Executives nationally who understand and are interested in promoting the impact of effective information sharing, use of data and insight to develop services and promote efficacy and effectiveness in delivery. It is likely that a national conference will be held in March at which the Chief Executives will take a lead in promoting particular activities from their Councils.

3.9 The Council had also made links with the National Learning Work Institute as its Director Policy Research visited the Council to understand the development of work since the Council was a Universal Credit Pilot, its activities around worklessness, in particular Me And My Learning as well as relationships with Job Centre Plus and the Department of Works and Pensions. As Members would expect the Council was able to illustrate its own journey, its intentions for the future and its impact of its work. Links will be maintained with the organisation through the Me And My Learning Business Partner as there may be opportunities for the Council to develop its services through running pilots and obtaining other forms of funding to assist with service development.

3.10 Finally, on 29 January 2016 the Director of the Office for Civil Society and Government Innovation is to visit the Council to further develop his understanding of the integrated working in Parkside and the extension of our services to Phoenix House through Me and My Learning. This will be another opportunity for the Council to showcase its work and speak to a senior Civil Servant working in the fields of our major interest.

4.0 **FINANCE AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Policy and Corporate Implications

The Matters set out in this report follow the Councils key policy direction and illustrate opportunity for its development and promotion

4.2 Finance

Matters relating to Finances highlighted in this report are dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.

5.0 **EQUALITIES**

6.0 **RISKS**

6.1

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant			1	
	D	Low				
	E	Very Low				
	F	Almost Impossible				
			Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4

IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Corporate Risk: Challenge of cultural issues which could undermine our ability to transform the Council and delivery of the required savings.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 None relevant.

10.0 WARDS AFFECTED

10.1 All

Contact Officer Lynn Aisbett – Chief Executive

Date: 18.01.2016

Background Papers:

Reference : X:\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\PFA\2015-16\26Jan2016\Item 9 – LA Corporate Issues