

# AGENDA ITEM 16

## POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

12 JULY 2016

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### CORPORATE ISSUES

##### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief and update Members on certain corporate issues since the last meeting of this committee.

##### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

**It is recommended that:**

- 2.1 **The progress towards the establishment of the Combined Authority be noted.**
- 2.2 **Delegated Authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of this Committee and the Opposition Spokesperson to enable and facilitate the Council's strategic approach to Disabled Facilities Grants.**

##### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

###### 3.1 Combined Authority

- 3.1.1 Significant progress has been made since the last report to this committee with respect to the processes required to establish a Combined Authority for Leicester and Leicestershire. It is likely that the parliamentary approval process establishing the Combined Authority will be progressed after the summer recess. It is believed that a target date for completion could therefore be suggested to be the end of November/early December 2016.
- 3.1.2 Members have granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of this Committee and the Opposition Spokesperson to deal with the approval of the draft Order for the Combined Authority once received, provided that the draft Order contains no substantive differences between that proposed within the Scheme approved by Members in December 2015. Further administrative stages of establishing the Combined Authority will then take place including the inaugural meeting which will look to approve the Constitution and Operating Agreement of the new body.
- 3.1.3 It is likely that as a result of this progress and ensuring that there is coordination between the new bodies documentation and the approval process that examination of the Constitution and Operating Agreement will be presented to Full Council at its October meeting.

###### 3.2 Disabled Facilities Grant Arrangements (DFG)

- 3.2.1 Members will recall at the last meeting of this committee a decision was made to

support the passporting of the increased allocation for DFG funding through to the Better Care Fund arrangements to support broader strategic capital projects such as assisted technology, specific assistance and adaptations and the major requirements of the open “Lightbulb” project which is supported by all partners in Leicestershire. This approach was approved as a result of the call on the DFG funding, professional advice that this approach was appropriate and within the Councils strategic direction of travel which supported these early intervention and prevention approaches.

3.2.2 Following further investigation it appears that whilst the ability of the Housing Authority to invest some of these monies into broader strategic projects there is a technical requirement of the money to be paid to the Housing Authority and then back to the Upper Tier Council. Your officers consider that previous decision of the Council should be sufficient indication to avoid unnecessary administrative action however this position will be kept under review as matters progress. It is the case that one Council in the county has decided not to take the same approach as this Council and the implications of that Council’s actions on the projects the council which its strategic monies supports need to be kept under review. To facilitate this it is suggested that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of this Committee and the Opposition Spokesperson to enable and facilitate the councils desired strategic approach.

### 3.3 Awards Submission Update

3.3.1 Members may recall that the council has been successful previously in the IRRV (Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuations) Awards winning a silver award for social inclusion work. The council has for 2016/17 submitted three award proposals to the organisation and has been successful in being shortlisted in all three applications. These are for Partnership Working, Social Inclusion and Training and Development Support. It is likely there will be an inspection which will examine the councils application in the late summer leading towards the decision of the IRRV in the early autumn. It is pleasing to note that the council can be seen to be making progress in one of its strategic areas of activity in helping vulnerable people deal with the outcomes of the national austerity programme through proactive early intervention and prevention which, as members are aware, leads to reduced demand on public sector services as a whole.

## 4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The issues highlighted within this report link to the councils strategic priorities particularly those relating to supporting business and improving the place and supporting vulnerable people.

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

5.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report other than those set out in paragraph 3.3.

## 6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 The recent issues clarified by Government in connection with the DFG issues are set out in paragraphs 3.3 of this report. The council is responding in a practical

and pragmatic way in endeavouring to achieve its strategic objectives as they apply to the locality whilst being mindful of government advice.

The legal requirements in establishing the Combined Authority and the Devolution proposals will be managed and supported at a partnership level across the City and County. The respective Councils Monitoring Officers and legal advisors are leading on the advice received with respect to the proposals and the procedures to be followed.

## 7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## 8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 Equalities Impact Assessments will be carried out as appropriate with respect to the activities in establishing the Combined Authorities and the Devolution proposals are required at a partnership level.

## 9.0 RISKS

9.1

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

<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>
1	Proposals for Combined Authority not acceptable to all parties.

## 10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## 11.0 **CONSULTATION**

- 11.1 Members are aware detailed consultation took place in the autumn 2015 with respect to Combined Authorities Scheme and this was reported to Full Council in December 2015. The further work which has taken place around the Devolution proposals are subject to consultation with partners and government as appropriate. The position with respect to the DFGs will be monitored and discussed at a District Council level and the request for Delegated Authority to move matters forward will assist in the council deal with matters as they arise.

## 12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

- 12.1 All.

Contact Officer: Lynn Aisbett, Chief Executive

Date: 04 July 2016

Background  
Papers:

Reference : X : Committees\Cttee, Councils & Sub Cttees/PFA/2016-17