

AGENDA ITEM 13

POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

30 NOVEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE ISSUES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on issues of interest since the last meeting of this committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

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

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Combined Authority

- 3.1.1 Members are aware that this Council was the first within the sub region to approve the important supporting documentation for the Combined Authority which will be approved for use at the first meeting of the Authority. Since the date of the Council's meeting two other Districts have approved the documentation in a similar way.

- 3.1.2 However, there is a delay with the Order required from Government to set up the Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority. This needs to be laid before Parliament and follow a process which it is estimated from previous experience takes approximately three months. Advice has been given that the Order is likely to be placed before Parliament in the new year. Therefore, the first full meeting of the Combined Authority is now not likely to take place until April 2017.

- 3.1.3 Members will recall that there is an approval process for the Order which each partner Council of the Combined Authority must complete. Currently this is delegated to the Chief Executive should there be no significant difference between the Order and the proposals approved by this Council in December 2015. If that is the case the delegated authority can be exercised otherwise the matter must be placed in front of Council. Members will appreciate that this depends on the terms of the Order which will be formally assessed before any action is taken. Whilst this further delay is regrettable, the partners continue to work together to deal with the detail and forward planning for the Combined Authority, which includes estimated financial budgets and the financial strategy.

3.2 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review

- 3.2.1 Members are aware through a report to the Governance Committee that the Boundary Commission has commenced a review of the Parliamentary Boundaries for this area. The review includes changes for the Rutland and Melton Constituency particularly with respect to the omission of certain parts of the

Harborough District which is currently part of the constituency and the inclusion of parts of Charnwood Borough Council. This would mean that the administrative arrangements of four district/ borough Council's would be engaged in any future parliamentary election, should the proposals be accepted. Members may recall that this was the administrative arrangement some time ago prior to the last review.

- 3.2.2 The Governance Committee has established a sub-committee which will consider the proposals at a meeting in early December to enable any submission to be made in the consultation period.

3.3 Community Covenant

- 3.3.1 This Council has proactively supported the Community Covenant in its aims and aspirations to support former veterans now living in the community. A Council champion has been appointed and changes to working practices made and initiatives taken forward, which will assist veterans in our community. An opportunity has arisen, during the summer, to submit a further bid for resources to work to better understand the needs of local veterans and to design programmes and support to assist. Charnwood Borough Council have led with the bid and Rushcliffe Borough Council and Melton are partners supporting its aims. The bid includes resources to facilitate this work to better understand veterans needs in each of the areas. The bid submission date has been extended and therefore it is anticipated that this bid will be submitted in the coming weeks.

- 3.3.2 Following information from other areas the Leader supported by the Community Covenant Champion has been encouraged to start "veterans breakfasts" within the Borough, whereby veterans can come together to share views, gain support and develop ideas which may then help them in their daily lives within the community. This is an initiative in early stages of development and depends on the needs and views of local veterans as to whether it meets their requirements and should continue.

3.4 Efficiency Plan

- 3.4.1 As Members are aware the Council's Efficiency Plan was submitted to Government in October as required. The Plan has been formally acknowledged. Officers are now moving ahead with the planning and implementation required to keep in line with this ambitious plan, which is now being assimilated into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and which will be produced in the new year.

- 3.4.2 It is intended that the Transformation and Efficiency Board will hold a meeting in December (if a convenient date can be arranged) to start its work in overseeing the role out of the plan at a Member level.

3.5 Awards

Members have been advised and will be pleased to note that the Council has been shortlisted for the Local Government Chronicle Awards in the category of Business Transformation. This is the first time that the Council has been shortlisted for these national prestigious awards and it is pleasing to note that this is in a main area of focus for the Council. The awards ceremony will be held in March 2017.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The issues reported within this email advise Members of projects and updates which sit within the Councils main Policy Framework as approved.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The key financial issues arising from the Combined Authority are being prepared and will be reported to Members as the information is understood. Members were briefed at the Full Council meeting and at the Group Briefings of the current stage of preparation of the financial information and strategy. Other matters are being handled within existing budgets and the position with respect to the Community Covenant bid will be recorded in the Council's grants register.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 The Combined Authority legal implications have been extensively examined by a partnership team working across the County and the City. These have been reported to Members throughout the process. Other initiatives will be subject to any necessary legal scrutiny as the development of those projects continues.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 The equalities aspects of key projects will be examined as the process relating to their establishment continues, this is particularly the case with the Community Covenant proposal which is being led by Charnwood Borough Council.

9.0 RISKS

9.1

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

IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Proposals for Combined Authority not acceptable to all parties.
2	Corporate Finance Risks.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 As Members will recall in Autumn 2015 the Combined Authority proposals were subject to an extensive cross sub region consultation exercise. As required with the other proposals mentioned within this report relevant engagement and consultation will take place as required.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All.

Contact Officer: Lynn Aisbett – Chief Executive

Date: 14 November 2016

Background Papers: Combined Authority
LGC awards Submission
Constitution and Operating Agreement

Reference : X:\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\Policy Finance & Administration Committee\2016-17