

AGENDA ITEM 13

POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

12 APRIL 2017

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE ISSUES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To brief Members upon corporate issues which have arisen since the previous committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that:

- 2.2 **The Leicestershire County Council's draft Communities Strategy be noted and participation by Officers in the development of a delivery Action Plan be supported.**

- 2.3 **The Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils Strategic Plan 2017/20 be noted and Members consider comments to be made to the Association, as appropriate.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Communities Strategy.

- 3.1.1 In March the County Council's Cabinet approved the refreshed draft Leicestershire Communities Strategy for engagement and consultation with stakeholders. The draft Strategy is attached at Appendix A to this report. The Strategy has four priorities.

- 1) Communities support themselves, individuals and families.
- 2) Communities in collaboration with public services are supported to design and deliver better outcomes for the people of Leicestershire.
- 3) The voluntary and community sector in Leicestershire is an effective provider of services in a diverse market.
- 4) The County Council continues to be outward focused, and open to new ways of working.

- 3.1.2 The County Council is asking its partners to assist it through a series of "conversations" and engagement events to explore opportunities for greater participation and involvement in the delivery of the draft Strategy and the preparation of a supporting Action Plan. A social media campaign is also planned to encourage greater involvement with the communities.

- 3.1.3 The draft document is clear and easy to read and the priorities indicated align with those that this Council has promoted for some time. It is therefore suggested to Members that Officers engage fully in this process and assist the County Council to reach its locality communities, and to raise awareness of the draft Strategy assisting those communities to participate in shaping its development.

3.1.4 Officers will identify key meetings, events or networks which can be used to promote the development of the draft Strategy in our locality and advise the County Council accordingly. Also, Officers are willing to work collaboratively to deliver the stated priorities for Leicestershire as they align with this Council's activities. In particular the focus Resilient Communities and an Outward, outcome focused approach aligns with the future work of this Council.

3.1.5 If Members have any comments on the draft strategy these can be advised to colleagues at the County Council, however, in the meantime Officers will work proactively to assist the County Council to reach communities and organisations within the Locality and participate positively in the development of the Action Plan particularly in the way it relates to Melton Borough and its partners.

3.2 Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils Strategic Plan 2017/20

3.2.1 The Council has received a copy of the Association's newly adopted Strategic Plan for its information and comment. The Association has advised that it is an "ambitious plan for development not only of the association, but also the parish and town council sector across the two counties" the Association's Strategic Plan is attached at Appendix B and sets out a clear direction of travel to deliver its strategic themes.

3.2.2 This Council has been asked for any comments it may have on the Strategic Plan and its aim to work with principal authorities and on their behalf, as relevant, to develop locality actions and approaches.

3.2.3 Members are therefore requested to review and comment upon the Association's Strategic Plan as appropriate and Officers will relay those comments and, or actions to the Association.

3.3 Combined Authority

3.3.1 The Council has been advised through the Officers at the County Council who are promoting and responding to any Government requests or advice in relation to the Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority proposal and bid submitted to the department of Communities and Local Government that no further contact or progress has been made in relation to this proposal. It is noted that the Government's activity at this time rest with the implementation of the Article 50 talks and the furtherance of its current programme of primary legislation.

3.3.2 Should there be any further developments on this matter Officers will report through this Committee as appropriate.

4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 As stated in the body of the report the draft Communities Strategy aligns comfortably with many of the Councils Corporate Priorities. Closer working in the development and delivery of locality and county wide action plans which will assist furtherance of these priorities are in line with the Council's current policy framework.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no particular financial or resource implications arising from the proposals set out in this report, other than the deployment of Officer time which will enable further partnership working to take place. Should any specific actions develop which are outside the Council's current commitment then separate reports will be made to relevant Committees of the Council.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no particular legal implications arising from this report at the current time.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 The action planning which may result from the consultation and engagement through the next steps in developing the draft Communities Strategy may result in projects which have a beneficial impact on issues associated with Community Safety.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 As the documents discussed in this report are owned by other corporate institutions they would carry out any Equalities Impact Assessment which may be required. Should the Council become engaged in any positive actions arising from the rollout of the draft Communities Strategy then separate Equalities Impact Assessments would be carried out as appropriate.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 There are no risks associated with this report in relation to the carrying out the proposed actions. The increase partnership working at a strategic and locality level with the promoting organisations may assist with the development of the Council's approach to its culture and any barriers to integrated working which may remain.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no implications arising at this stage from the report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Consultation has taken place by the County Council with District partners and at this stage through the Communities Inclusion Partnership. The Association's Strategic Plan is provided for comment and therefore the Council are taking part in the Association's Consultation.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All

Contact Officer: Lynn Aisbett
Date: 04 April 2017
Appendices : Appendix A – The Draft Leicestershire Communities Strategy 2017/20. 1 (Working Together to Build Capital Communities)
Appendix B – The Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Council's Strategic Plan 2017/20
Background Papers: Relevant Notes and Minutes of the Community Inclusion Partnership.
Reference : X:\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\Policy Finance & Administration Committee\2016-17\12 April 2017