

AGENDA ITEM 15

POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

11 JULY 2017

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE ISSUES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring to Member's attention matters that have occurred since the last meeting of this Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- 2.1 **Briefing session in connection with the Strategic Growth Plan be set up for all Members during July 2017 as appropriate.**
- 2.2 **The content of the report be noted in particular the performance of the Councils Election Team in relation to the recent County, Bi and General Elections.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 An update on the Members Advisory Group

As Members are aware the Members Advisory Group (MAG) is comprised of the 8 Local Planning Authorities and the County Council together with representatives of the Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership (LLEP). The MAG has been meeting for some time and oversaw the production of the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) as well as moving forward for the sub region and its partners particularly the LLEP in the production of a Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire looking towards 2050. The approach has been to build on the Local Planning Authorities work with respect to their developing / approved Local Plans and looking forward beyond 2031/36 to 2050 to adequately plan and look to the future for growth and infrastructure needs. The Leaders of Councils or portfolio holders in relation to these matters sit on the MAG however, approval of its direction of travel is required to pass through the governance arrangements for each partner.

- 3.2 In connection with the development of the Strategic Growth Plan which will also feed into the LLEP's Strategic Economic Plan which has been prepared somewhat in parallel with the Growth Plan it has been suggested by the MAG that all Member briefings and updates take place over the summer months into the early autumn as the initial drafts of the plan looking forward to 2050 are developed.
- 3.3 It is therefore proposed that subject to availability and appropriate advise an all Member briefing will be held during July to facilitate the first stage of advice concerning the Strategic Growth Plan for all Members. It is hoped that an update on

possible dates for such a briefing can be given at the meeting.

3.4 2017 Elections

As Members are aware the Council has managed and held 4 parish elections for County Council division elections for Melton, 2 by elections within the town of Melton Mowbray and the Rutland and Melton Constituency election for the General Election held on 8th June. For a small team this is a significant level of pressure, particularly as the General Election was announced during the Local County Election timetable and programme necessitating the running of two elections consecutively.

3.5 Members are aware that the Council has developed a specific approach to election support in that it “drafts” waves of staff in from services across the Council with skills in particular areas of the election activities to smoothly deliver the process as a whole. This includes the core election team expanding from 3 staff to 5 and the assimilation of certain duties in finance and communications to support the process. In particular, key staff in finance take a leadership role with respect to the management of the Count and Verification processes. The way this is managed runs smoothly, however, there is no doubt that two consecutive elections coupled with by elections caused significant pressures within the elections team as well as those services which supported the process. Communications take the lead in media relations, staff relations particularly with respect to the Count and training of Poll Clerks as well as dealing with the many Electoral Commission initiatives and press requirements through the election process.

3.6 The Council has moved successfully to the system of “mini counts” which are now considered good practice generally at a national Electoral Commission level. This process was adopted for the County and General Election count. It is pleasing to note therefore that for the six counts (four division/ two borough by elections) held on the 4 and 5 May 2017 all counts balanced perfectly with respect to the results declared, and following the implementation of eight mini counts to deliver the General Election the result declared was within a tolerance of one vote within over 57,000 votes as declared. This is a significant achievement for a small but dedicated team.

3.7 Handover arrangements with the Chief Executive designate.

Arrangements are advanced in the handover with the Chief Executive designate. He has made one visit to the Council and assimilated a deal of corporate information in relation to the Council’s position. Furthermore a series of documents are being supplied to him both as considered relevant by current Council managers and as he himself feels would be useful to have looked at prior to his commencement of formal employment with the Council.

3.8 It is anticipated that one-to-one meetings will be held with the Councils Management Team in mid July with a final handover briefing session with the current Chief Executive following. An early session with Members is scheduled for the week prior to the time of commencement of employment which is scheduled as Tuesday 29 August 2017. As questions arise from the new Chief Executive these are being answered by Officers as appropriate, in particular the outgoing Chief Executive is providing background and discussions are being held with the current Leader as appropriate. It is anticipated that the Chief Executive designate will focus on internal issues in his preliminary weeks with the Council thereafter broadening

his outreach. Melton is the lead Authority for the District Council arrangements for 2017/18 therefore the new Chief Executive will assume this role from September onwards.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The MAG groups work on the Strategic Growth Plan will inform the Growth activity for the sub region/ LLEP going forward.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

9.0 RISKS

9.1

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

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Problems in delivery of Election Procedures.
2	Members engagement in Strategic Growth Plan for facilities.

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 A General Election/ County Council Election debrief sessions will be held and this will include any comments from Agents representing the political parties that took part in the recent procedures.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All

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Date: 29 June 2017

Appendices : None

Background Papers:

Reference : X:\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\Policy Finance & Administration Committee\2017-18\11th July 2017