

## MEETING OF COUNCIL

11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017

### PARTICIPATION IN THE 'LIGHTBULB' PROJECT

#### REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

##### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the details of the Council's involvement in the above project.

##### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council agrees to the involvement within the terms determined by Policy, Finance and Administration Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (see appendix 1), in particular to:

- (i) **Agrees to the delegation of the Council's Disabled Facilities Grant responsibilities under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 Act to Blaby DC to implement on the Council's behalf and;**
- (ii) **Delegate authority to the Head of Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, to sign the Legal Agreements with Blaby DC and other partner Authorities to facilitate the above.**

##### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Policy, Finance and Administration Committee considered the participation of the Council in the county – wide 'Lightbulb' project on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017, including organisational arrangements and financial implications etc. These details are set out in the report to that meeting which are reproduced as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.2 However additional authority to proceed on this basis is required from Council as a result of the need to authorise the delegation of the Disabled Facilities Grant responsibilities to Blaby DC who are appointed as the 'host authority' for this project and who would discharge these responsibilities on our behalf.
- 3.3 The arrangements are supported by a series of legal agreements that set out the relationships between the partner Authorities and the details of financial and staffing arrangements, as described in the report that forms Appendix 1. These have been reviewed by the Solicitor to the Council and the legal advisors of each of the partner Authorities and are now ready to be signed in order to implement the project and the partnership approach it provides. Delegation to the responsible officers is therefore requested in order for the Council to participate.

##### 4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The 'Lightbulb' project has strong alignment with our priorities of improving the customer journey and enabling the vulnerable to live independently as long as they are able.

##### 5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Full details of the financial implication of the participation in the project are set out in the report that comprises Appendix 1. The Policy, Finance and Administration Committee

resolved on 11th July 2017, to approve the additional costs of £30,000 per annum with the part year costs of £15,000 for 2017/18 being met from within existing resources.

5.2 Capital contributions for DFG's are currently met in full from the grant provided. In 2016/17 these were sufficient to fully meet demand and alleviated the need for any capital contribution from the Council. However it should also be noted that both demand and the grant awarded is volatile and as such further requests may be submitted through the capital programme.

## 6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The authority for the delegation of services between Local Authorities is provided by the Local Government Act 2000 and The Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.

6.2 The agreements put into place between partners have been drafted under Regulation 9EA of the Local Government Act 2000 and Regulation 5 of The Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012

## 7.0 **EQUALITIES**

7.1 The implementation of the service across Leicestershire and in line with an agreed SLA should seek to ensure equality of access to this service.

## 8.0 **RISKS**

8.1 A comprehensive risk register is in place for the Lightbulb Programme, with risk and issues reported regularly through Programme governance structures. A formal review of the risk register is undertaken on a quarterly basis. Please see Appendix 1.

## 9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

9.1 There are no specific climate change implications.

## 10.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

10.1 Works could take place in any ward in the Borough.

Contact Officer J Worley – Head of Regulatory Services  
Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017

Appendices : Appendix 1: Report to PFA Committee 11/7/2017

Background Papers: *Report to to PFA Committee :*

- 30/11/2016 and Appendix A, lightbulb Business Case
- 11/7/2017

Reference : PFA