

EXECUTIVE CABINET - GENERAL REPORT

MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2014

LGA Peer Challenge Feedback

1. The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance shared the findings of the LGA peer challenge which had taken place in January.
2. The challenge team had been made up of six senior officers and Members from other authorities who carried out a 'health check' around five 'core component areas' and one focus area; economic development.
3. Following initial background research, the peer challenge team met with over 50 officers, Councillors, partners and stakeholders. The findings of the review are set out in a presentation and letter. The letter is extremely positive, identifying strengths in terms of leadership, ambitions, staff culture, performance, partnership working, delivery and more. The letter also included six key suggestions and ideas for consideration.
4. We commented that the exercise has been constructive, in particular, the positive comments about the engagement of officers and members of the public. We noted the letter and next steps.

Legal Restructure

5. The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented a report seeking the authority to restructure the Legal Services Team.
6. The restructure has been prompted because one of the senior solicitors has gained a promotion at another authority. This, along with the qualification of the two paralegals, presents an opportunity to make the legal service more robust.
7. The proposal provides greater resilience to the team, increasing the number of solicitors to three. The provision of a team leader role with responsibilities for day to day staffing issues provides an immediate "in-room" management presence and support, as well as providing a more incrementally progressive structure. The retention of a paralegal post provides an opportunity to further develop an employee, as has been the case within the team previously.
8. We granted approval to consult staff on the proposed structure and granted delegated authority to the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance to receive the consultation responses, and subject to their being no opposition, agree to the implementation of the new structure.

Review of the Meals on Wheels pilot

9. The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance provided the Executive Cabinet with an overview of the findings of the recent evaluation of the Meals on Wheels pilot service. The report recommends the way forward and seeks approval to undertake a procurement exercise to enable the continuation of the service.
10. The Meals on Wheels pilot has been implemented as part of a larger piece of work to address social isolation amongst older people in Chorley by connecting communities through food. The project looks to develop a pilot Meals on Wheels service, building on current provision by developing a service that not only delivers hot meals to people's homes, but also provides some extra support and safety checks, along with a level of company and social interaction. The service is targeted at the more vulnerable members of the community who need more support and are most at risk of becoming socially isolated.
11. Overall, the service has been very well received and levels of customer satisfaction are high across the board; 100% of customers stated that they are very or fairly satisfied with 78% very satisfied.
12. We discussed the subsidised nature of the scheme and the projected take up of the extended scheme.
13. We noted that whilst this type of provision usually falls within the remit of upper tier authority social care provision, there are benefits to the council of supporting this service. It provides the opportunity to engage with a key target population, coordinate local partnership provision and prevent more complex issues with more significant downstream costs for the Council and its partners.
14. We agreed that the focus will be good quality food and the quality of the care aspect of the service. We granted approval to the proposal for the continuation of the Meals on Wheels Service, subject to successful completion of the pilot period on the 4 April 2014. We also granted approval for the completion of a procurement exercise, the proposed approach and associated evaluation criteria and granted delegated authority to the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance to approve the preferred provider.

Replacing the 3 Tier Forum

15. I presented a report seeking approval to establish pilot arrangements with Lancashire County Council to replace the current 3 Tier Forum.
16. The 3 Tier Forum is a Lancashire County Council meeting of the seven County Councillors and seven Borough Councillors and one Parish Councillor which had been introduced by the County Council in 2011/12, across all districts as a replacement to the Lancashire Locals. At the time, Parish Councils expressed considerable concern that they did not have sufficient representation on the new forum.

17. In recent months the County Council indicated it wished to review existing 3TF arrangements and invited views and ideas on alternatives, including looking at different arrangements for different districts. Chorley and Lancaster Councils have been approached to pilot new arrangements and discussions have taken place between the leadership of both Chorley and Lancashire County Councils. A proposal has now been developed.
18. Chorley's proposal is to take the best of current successful liaison arrangements with the parish and town councils, build in existing neighbourhood working provision and integrate County Council representation. This minimises duplication and will hopefully ensure full involvement and participation from the three Council tiers.
19. The new joint body will primarily be a consultative forum and will consider strategic issues which impact on local communities. Membership will be: all seven County Councillors; the eight Borough Councillors which Chair the eight Neighbourhood Area meetings; an additional Councillor who represents Chorley town (as a non parished area); and one councillor representative from each of the Parish and Town Councils in the Borough.
20. We agreed that one system will not fit all of the Borough's within Lancashire and the importance of questions being received in advance to enable responses to be given to people at the meeting. It is also important that the relevant officers be in attendance at the meeting.
21. We supported the aspiration that the pilot will not damage the positive relationship the Council has with the Parishes through the Borough Parish Liaison, and note that there is still the option to call a meeting of the Borough Parish Liaison.
22. We granted approval to the proposed pilot arrangements with Lancashire County Council.

Neighbourhood Priorities

23. The Executive Member for Places updated us on the delivery of the 24 neighbourhood priorities in 2013/14. The report seeks approval for the new 24 neighbourhood priorities to be delivered in 2014/15.
24. Of the original twenty four priorities twenty one have been delivered to the satisfaction of the neighbourhood area meetings held in January/February 2014.
25. Neighbourhood Areas were invited to submit three key priorities or actions for their areas during the round of neighbourhood area meetings in January/February 2014 and Councillor Lowe thanked those people who submitted priorities. The Neighbourhood Area meetings determined a total of 24 priorities across the eight neighbourhood areas.

26. We discussed the budget allocation for the priorities. The budget has not been exceeded and all priorities have an evidence of need. There is an aspiration that partners will contribute to the delivery of the priorities.
27. Participation at the neighbourhood meetings has continued to ensure engagement with parish councils, county council members and registered social landlords as well as ward Councillors.
28. We granted approval to the 24 priorities and actions identified through the recent round of Neighbourhood Area meetings and for delivery in 2014/15 and noted the successful delivery of neighbourhood priorities in 2013/14.

Key Partnerships Monitoring Report

29. I presented a confidential report updating Members on the performance of the council's key partnership arrangements.
30. The key partnerships performance report is produced in accordance with the requirements of the council's key partnerships framework. It informs Members of the performance of the council's key partnerships against targets set for the current year, any emerging issues including whether the contract is on budget or subject to any overspend or underspend of budget. It also gives an assessment of the key partner's financial strength and stability.
31. Overall performance of all of the key partnerships is generally strong and the financial assessments of the partnerships are positive, with the financial standing of all key partnerships either remaining the same or improving.
32. We noted the report.

Property Services Contract

33. I presented a confidential report which informs Members of an additional proposal from Liberata to extend the current Property Services Contract for a period of 3 years.
34. We agreed to reject the proposal and continue with bringing the property service back in house.

VCFS Commissioning 2014 – Approval of Providers

35. The Executive Member for People presented a confidential report requesting approval for the providers for the contracts procured through the VCFS commissioning process (replacement of core funding).
36. We granted approval to the providers and for officers to develop contracts for 2014/15 with the options to extend on an annual basis for up to three years. We also granted approval to grant delegated power to the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance and the Executive Member for People

to approve the provider for the arts and employability programme for young people following the completion of the commissioning process.

Cotswold Supported Housing: Phase 5 of the Capital Investment Programme - Approval to accept the successful tender and proceed

37. The Executive Member for Homes and Business presented a confidential report seeking approval to proceed to appoint the contractor to carry out phase 5 of the investment works at Cotswold Supported Housing.
38. We agreed it would be positive step to write to firms within Chorley to encourage them to register on the Chest.
39. We granted approval to the appointment of P.J. Services who submitted the best value tender.

Recommendation

40. That the report be noted.

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BRADLEY
Executive Leader

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