

CABINET

LANCASHIRE IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP – TEAM LANCASHIRE

3rd JUNE 2008

Report of Corporate Director (Finance and Performance)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Cabinet of the creation of the Lancashire Improvement and Efficiency Partnership - Team Lancashire, and to seek endorsement for the Council to participate fully within the Partnership and to agree nominations to attend the launch event.

Secondly to agree proposals for officers to develop a three year Improvement and Efficiency Strategy for the Council.

Key Decision

Non-Key Decision

Referral from
Corporate Director

X

Date Included in Forward Plan

N/A

This report is public.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That Cabinet note the changes being made in developing a national improvement and efficiency framework.
- 2 That Cabinet endorse the Council's participation in the Lancashire Improvement and Efficiency Partnership – Team Lancashire.
- 3 That Cabinet nominate two members to attend the launch event of Team Lancashire on 10 July 2008.
- 4 That officers develop a three year Improvement and Efficiency Strategy for the Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Central government has restructured the framework for securing improvements and efficiencies within the public sector. The regional Centres of Excellence and Improvement networks have been merged into nine sub regional Improvement and

Efficiency Partnerships and a new national Improvement and Efficiency Strategy has been approved.

- 1.2 The purpose and objectives of the new arrangements are to:
- improve value for money to meet the annual 3% efficiency target for Councils set out in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07)
 - increase innovation capacity
 - improve community empowerment
 - improve economic and neighbourhood renewal leadership capacity
- 1.3 To deliver these objectives, each of the nine Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships has sub-regional structures in place. For the North West, the Partnership is divided into five sub regions – Lancashire, Cumbria, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.
- 1.4 The North West Improvement and Efficiency Strategy sets out key themes for improvement, namely:
- efficiency
 - transformational government and the citizen
 - economic development and regeneration
 - health and social care
 - community safety
 - community empowerment and neighbourhood management
 - children and young people services
 - environmental quality and climate change
- 1.5 Each of the sub regions has developed their own Improvement and Efficiency Strategy which sets out a three year work programme for achieving improvements and efficiencies specific to their localities. For Lancashire, this is being undertaken through Team Lancashire.

2 TEAM LANCASHIRE

- 2.1 Team Lancashire is a partnership of the 15 local authorities within Lancashire (County, two unitaries, and 12 district councils) which has been constituted through the Lancashire Leaders' Group supported by the Lancashire Chief Executives.
- 2.2 Most recently the Leaders Group approved the Lancashire Improvement and Efficiency Strategy and at the time of writing, this is with the NWIEP awaiting their approval. The Strategy identifies six key themes which Team Lancashire will seek to deliver. They are:
- Economy and Infrastructure
 - Health Inequalities
 - Community Cohesion
 - Community Empowerment
 - Street Scene
 - Efficiency

3 **PROGRESS TO DATE**

3.1 At present, Team Lancashire is still in its early stages of development but it is looking to build on existing partnership work and collaboration that already exists within the County.

3.2 As a consequence, progress is developing action plans to deliver improvements and efficiencies for the key themes set out in 2.2 above, is at different stages. However project management and governance arrangements have been established to set things in motion.

3.3 To date the area where most progress has been made is that of efficiency. Work has been sub divided into three themes:

- Shared Services
- Procurement
- Collaboration

3.4 Research into existing partnerships and collaborations has identified a range of services that could bring improvements to service delivery and achieve efficiencies. In particular the following service activities have been identified for further work:

- Legal and HR
- Finance, Payroll, Accountancy and Audit
- Revenues and Benefits
- Property Services
- Street Scene and Waste Collection
- Procurement
- Building Control
- Leisure Services

3.5 It is anticipated that by either county-wide, or cluster working, councils can come together to either host, collaborate or transfer services to achieve improvements and efficiencies.

3.6 To promote the Team Lancashire Partnership, a launch event is being held at Chorley on 10 July 2008. Details have still to be finalised but each Council is asked to nominate two members to attend.

4 **FINANCE**

4.1 Across the County, the CSR07 has set efficiency targets of approximately £108M over a three year period, which is £36M a year, all of which must be cashable.

4.2 To support IEPs in delivering strategies, central government has allocated resources. For Team Lancashire this is approximately £1.1M per annum for the three year period. How this money is to be allocated still has to be agreed, but it is proposed to allocate the money as set out in **Appendix A**.

5 **LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL'S POSITION**

5.1 Lancaster City Council has already set itself cashable efficiency targets within its Corporate Plan. It is likely therefore that by participating within Team Lancashire, significant savings can be generated to help achieve these targets.

5.2 To deliver the targets referred to above, and to secure service improvements, it is proposed to develop a three year Improvement and Efficiency Strategy for Lancaster City Council. This will set out how specific efficiencies and improvements will be achieved over this period and demonstrate how Lancaster will participate in Team Lancashire.

6 OPTIONS

6.1 Option 1

To note the new improvement and efficiency framework, endorse the Council's participation in Team Lancashire, and to develop a three year Improvement and Efficiency Strategy for the Council.

6.2 Option 2

To note the new improvement and efficiency framework but not participate in Team Lancashire and pursue an alternative method of securing improvement and efficiencies.

6.3 Option 1 is the preferred option.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The opportunities presented by participating in Team Lancashire would significantly help the Council to deliver its Corporate Plan savings targets. The development of a three year Improvement and Efficiency Strategy for the Council would provide a clear programme of how services will be improved and efficiencies achieved.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Corporate Plan specifically includes priority outcomes that:

- 1 Continue to evaluate our services to ensure they are delivered in the most efficient and cost effective way.
- 2 Develop a service culture that embraces transformational change.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None directly arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report. If any cost implications arise from the work proposed they will be brought forward as part of the 2009/10 budget exercise.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and have no comments to add.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no additional comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Contact Officer: Roger Muckle

Telephone: 01524 582022

E-mail: rmuckle@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: RCM/JEB

