

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Cabinet

5th December 2005

Supporting People – Major Projects
Value Improvement Project & Strategic Review of Floating Support

Report of the Director of Social Care and Health and the Director of Housing

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report outlines the main features of two major projects, which are currently being undertaken in the Supporting People Programme. The Programme is organised within the policy and funding framework set for it by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

2 Summary

- 2.1 The Supporting People Strategy 2005 - 10 details how the Leicester Supporting People Commissioning Body intends to shape housing related support services over a five-year period. Cabinet approved the Strategy on 25th April 2005. Two major pieces of work, identified in the Strategy, are being undertaken this year to improve the overall delivery of housing related support services and make efficiency savings.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note the requirement to undertake the review and consider the financial implications of any changes to the Council's services as part of the budget preparation process for 2006 - 08.

4 Headline Financial and Legal Implications

4.1 Finance Implications

The combination of these two projects is required to realise a minimum of £250,000 annual savings, although it may be possible to achieve significantly more than this. This is required to ensure the programme is sustainable in the long term, as it is expected that the grant given to the Supporting People programme in Leicester from the ODPM will fall over time. These projected savings also form part of the Annual Efficiency Statement. These savings will be realised in full in 2007/08, although it is projected that there will be a part-year saving in 2006/07.

4.2 Legal Implications

Officers and Cabinet should note that there will be contractual obligations in place with the individual service providers listed at appendix A. The operation of the two Projects

as outlined in the Supporting Information to this Report should recognise any contractual obligations which the Council will be obligated to fulfil and which may affect the delivery of the Projects

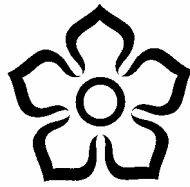
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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	No
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)



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Supporting People – Major Projects
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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Report of the Director of Social Care and Health and the Director of Housing

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Report outlines the main features of two major projects being undertaken by the SP programme.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Supporting People (SP) programme is responsible for the planning and delivery of housing related support services in Leicester. The council manages the SP grant (currently £16m) on behalf of a partnership body made up of the Council, Probation and Health. The SP Team manage the programme on behalf of the Council and the Partnership Body.
- 2.2 The SP Grant is paid to a range of providers who deliver the support service on behalf of the partnership body. These include, the Council itself (Housing and Social Care and Health), Housing Associations, Voluntary and Charitable organisation and the private sector. Examples of housing related support services are homeless hostels, sheltered housing, supported accommodation schemes and floating support¹ to people in their own homes.
- 2.3 The SP Strategy (2005-10) details how the partnership intends to shape the SP sector over a five-year period. It is anticipated that there will be reductions to the overall amount of grant Leicester will receive during the five-year period. Two major pieces of

¹ These are housing related support services that go to people in their own home as distinct from supported housing services where people have to move into the scheme to receive the support

work are being undertaken this year to improve the overall delivery of services and make efficiency savings. These are outlined below:

3 Project 1: Strategic Review of all housing related floating support services

3.1 Leicester City currently has 27 different floating support services which go to 1300 vulnerable individuals (please see appendix A for a full list of these services). Leicester spends £5m per annum on these services (31% of the overall SP grant).

3.2 Strategic reviews of housing related support services provide the mechanism for the strategic development of housing related services in Leicester; this includes floating support services. The five-year strategy outlines the primary aims of strategic reviews, which are as follows:

- To determine the relative need for services and aim to fill current gaps in provision, including specific consideration of BME communities
- To assess access and referral routes to ensure service users can access services
- To determine the correct mix of services preventing crisis, managing crisis and move-on / maximising long-term independence
- To assess the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the current set-up and range of services and service providers (including the mix between generic and specialised services)

3.3 Floating Support Services were chosen for the first strategic review because of a number of factors:

- There are a number of client groups where the need for floating support was within the top priority areas for development
- The relative ranking determined through a prioritisation process indicated the need for a strategic review, to consider the need for the current level of floating support to several client groups in more detail
- The high proportion of spend within this section and the number of different schemes within the sector, suggests it is an area that is likely to be able to generate some efficiency savings
- Widening the scope via the Value Improvement Project (see below) allows for a wider consideration of this market, which should expand the opportunities for joint commissioning further enhancing the possibilities for efficiency savings

3.4 The annual plan, within the five-year strategy also states that Leicester expects this review to realise £500,000 in savings to the Supporting People budget.

3.5 This review will be managed as a major project in the council, using PRINCE2 methodology. This project has already started and it is anticipated that any options for change will be decided early in 2006. An impact assessment and change management plan will be drawn up to deliver any recommended changes to services.

3.6 Full consultation with existing providers, other key stakeholders and users of floating support services is taking place and will continue to take place as appropriate.

4 Project 2: Value Improvement Project

- 4.1 Following a national review of the Supporting People Programme, ODPM invited Local Authorities to bid for funding to identify and pursue opportunities to improve value for money in Supporting People services. Leicester was one of 9 local authorities bids to be supported by ODPM. Leicester received a £35,000 grant from ODPM to support this project.
- 4.2 Leicester's bid was awarded to be a pilot for developing joint commissioning of housing related support services with other relevant agencies. Following discussions with the ODPM, it has been agreed to combine this work with the strategic review of floating support services. This will seek to identify the amount of SP resources, which should be given over for a jointly commissioned floating support service.
- 4.3 The first part of the project was to carry out a feasibility study to establish which client group might offer the greatest potential benefits for joint commissioning/joint referral, assessment or access points. The feasibility study recommended that this should be young peoples services.
- 4.4 The next stage of the project will be to work with stakeholders (commissioners and providers of young peoples services) and also users to establish which services would be best placed to be jointly commissioned and managed with SP floating support services. The project has been discussed and agreed by the Children's Federation Board.
- 4.5 The project will also be managed as a major project in the council. It is anticipated that the options for a jointly commissioned service will be established during the remainder of this financial year and joint commissioning policies and procedures will be worked up during the first half of 2006.
- 4.6 This project will produce a model for joint commissioning that can be used by Leicester City Council to develop joint commissioning arrangements in Local Area Agreements, Children and Young Peoples Services and other programmes of work.

5 Other Considerations

- 5.1 The SP Commissioning Body is the Programme Board for both projects.

6 FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance Implications

The combination of these two projects is required to realise a minimum of £250,000 annual savings, although it may be possible to achieve significantly more than this. This is required to ensure the programme is sustainable in the long term, as it is expected that the grant given to the Supporting People programme in Leicester from the ODPM will fall over time. These projected savings also form part of the Annual Efficiency Statement. These savings will be realised in full in 2007/08, although it is projected that there will be a part-year saving in 2006/07.

6.2 Legal Implications

Officers and Cabinet should note that there will be contractual obligations in place with the individual service providers listed at appendix A. The operation of the two Projects as outlined in the Supporting Information to this Report should recognise any contractual obligations which the Council will be obligated to fulfil and which may affect the delivery of the Projects

6.2 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities	Yes	3.2
Policy	Yes	3 & 4
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	

7 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972
Supporting People Strategy 2005-10

8 Consultations
Financial : Rod Pearson, Head of Housing Finance (7108)
Legal: Joanna Bunting, Head of Legal Services (7117)

9 Report Author
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