

Report To:	Cabinet	Date:	24 November 2016
Heading:	Regeneration Shared Service - Service Level Agreement		
Portfolio Holder:	DEPUTY LEADER – ECONOMIC GROWTH		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	Yes		
Subject To Call-In:	Yes		

Purpose Of Report

This Cabinet Report proposes the extension of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Mansfield District Council (MDC) for continuation of the Regeneration Shared Service (RSS) for a further period of 5 years and also offers a new Economic Growth Plan and Delivery Plan for consideration and approval. These documents are appended to this Report.

Recommendation(s)

- a) To approve the continuation of the SLA with MDC for the Regeneration Shared Service, for a further period of 5 years;
- b) To approve an annual review of progress to be presented through ADC Cabinet;
- c) To approve the new Economic Growth Plan with its new suite of strategic priorities and its associated Delivery Plan;
- d) To grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth) to drive delivery of the Growth Plan and Delivery Plan priorities, in conjunction with MDC and to make minor changes where necessary;

Reasons For Recommendation(s)

1 Cabinet previously approved the implementation of an SLA with MDC on 5 March 2012, in order to deliver a suite of agreed joint economic priorities for both Councils under a Joint Economic Masterplan and funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It was agreed the same year that MDC would host the RSS team and that the cost of the shared service would be split 58.5 % MDC and 41.5% ADC.

2 Since then, the RSS has led on a range of projects which have benefited both ADC and MDC, including the delivery of over £1.1m European funding for economic projects. This has

included work on Town Centres (public realm and business development), sites and premises development, and work with private sector investors, skill development and apprenticeships.

3 However, the ERDF programme which funded RSS projects has now ended and it is timely to consider a new Economic Strategy and delivery plan for both Authorities.

4 As well as this, the current SLA expires at the end of April 2017 and it is necessary for Cabinet to agree to an extension.

5 Ashfield District Council has alongside Mansfield District Council recently completed a review of the Regeneration Shared Service designed to increase the level of focus on key priorities and to adapt the service so as to take account of economic and contextual changes. The success of this review will be monitored.

Alternative Options Considered (With Reasons Why Not Adopted)

Do nothing: is not an acceptable option because the SLA is due to finish on 30th April 2017 and the current Joint Economic Masterplan is now out of date. Not recommended.

ADC to deliver its own Regeneration effort: ADC and MDC have similar economic and social geographies and having a joint arrangement delivers greater economies of scale for both Districts. Not recommended.

Continue the SLA to deliver a RSS: this is the preferred option which delivers greater economies of scale and provides better vfm. This is the recommended option.

Detailed Information

1 The previous 5 year Service Level Agreement for the RSS was agreed by Cabinet in March 2012 in order to deliver a suite of agreed joint priorities for both Ashfield and Mansfield District Councils and to provide economies of scale for both Authorities. This followed the adoption in 2011 of a Joint Economic Masterplan and the subsequent successful application for £1.1m of European Regional Development funding (ERDF) for economic projects.

2 Since then the RSS has delivered, led or contributed to a range of projects which have benefited Ashfield and Mansfield. A wide range of initiatives and projects were successfully delivered, for example: enterprise development, business account management, physical developments in town centres, working with inward investors.

3 The current SLA will end in April 2017 and the ERDF programme has already come to an end. This means that it is timely for Cabinet to consider a new Agreement and a new Strategy and Delivery Plan. The previous JEM reflected the need to deliver ERDF outputs, with an emphasis on “transactional” programmes of delivery based on robust grant disbursement and monitoring and audit of outputs to comply with EU rules. Both sets of Leadership in Ashfield and Mansfield have supported a move to a more facilitative and enabling approach; one which encompasses broader business relationships through account management, work with supply chains, skills development and the use of socio economic intelligence to support interventions.

4 With this in mind the service was restructured in April 2016 with a new set of shared priorities around the themes of: Economic Intelligence and Employment, Enterprise and

Investment and Property. Staff were assimilated into new job descriptions, revenue savings were made and there were no redundancies.

5 Since then the team has been working to review the JEM and through the summer of 2016 consulted partners on a new Ashfield and Mansfield Plan for Growth which encompassed a new strategic direction and delivery plan. This consultation was available via the Invest in Ashfield and Mansfield website, Ashfield DC and Mansfield DC websites, via social media and e mail mailouts to key strategic partners, eg D2N2, West Nottinghamshire College, East Midlands Chamber, DWP, Ashfield and Mansfield 2020.

6 It should be noted that there is an ever diminishing source of external grant funding for direct interventions. Because of this, there are a growing number of actions in the Delivery Plan which are about facilitation, coordination and signposting; as well as the need to draw in more mainstream funding from our key strategic partners.

7 As an integral part of this SLA extension, we are proposing that progress is reviewed annually through Cabinet to ensure that the delivery momentum is maintained.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Regeneration is corporate priority, as is delivery of a key set of projects: town centres, business investment and skills. This Cabinet Report is therefore fully in line with Corporate objectives.

Legal:

The RSS commenced on 1 May 2012 for an initial 5 year term (ending on 30 April 2017). The SLA allows extensions of further 5 year periods subject to satisfactory performance. The SLA provides for either party to terminate at any time giving a minimum of 12 months' notice to take effect on 30 March; this in effect is an annual break clause.

Finance:

This report is effective from 1 April 2017 and has the following financial implications:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	By agreeing to the SLA, the Council's contribution to the cost of the service will be £205k for 2017/18, £210k for 2018/19 and £216k for 2019/20.
General Fund – Capital Programme	No impact
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	No impact
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	No Impact

Human Resources / Equality and Diversity:

The RSS team are employed by Mansfield District Council under their terms and conditions; a restructure was implemented utilising their procedures early in 2016. On Equality and Diversity; a thriving local economy will provide access to jobs for a diverse population and the Skills work being carried out by the team ensures wider accessibility to training and job opportunities.

Other Implications:

Communications: A news release will be prepared about this item by the Corporate Communications Team to coincide with the report.

Reason(s) for Urgency (if applicable):

N/A

Background Papers

Ashfield and Mansfield – a Plan for Growth and the associated Delivery Plan.

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