

Plymouth City

Subject: DRC Partnership Succession Strategy
Committee: Cabinet
Date: 20th October 2009
Cabinet Member: Councillor Ted Fry, Planning Regeneration and Economic Growth
CMT Member: Director Development and Regeneration
Author: Ian Gallin (Assistant Chief Executive);
Sandra Wilson (Assistant Head of Finance)
Contact: Tel: (01752 (30) 4942
e-mail: ian.gallin@plymouth.gov.uk ;
sandra.wilson@plymouth.gov.uk
Ref: IG/SW
Part: 1

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to seek the support of Cabinet to the DRC Partnership Succession Strategy. A full report on the Succession Strategy, produced by the DRC partnership is attached. This report has been approved by the DRC Board and has been considered and approved by the LSP Executive.

Plymouth successfully bid for a Round 2 NDC programme that is now in Year 9 of its 10 year life. The programme focuses on the Devonport neighbourhood, at the time one of the most deprived areas in Plymouth (and the country). The programme has received in excess of £48m investment from CLG over its lifetime and levered in additional match funding investment in excess of £200m. The Council, as the accountable body for the grant, is required to agree to the succession strategy and until the strategy has been approved by CLG, the Council remains responsible for any clawback of grant that may be effected by CLG in future years. It is therefore important that the council satisfies itself of the financial viability of the proposals. The Council's responsibilities for grant clawback will be removed once the succession strategy as been approved by CLG.

The purpose of the succession strategy is to identify the ways in which

- improvements are sustained beyond the 10 year NDC through the continued alignment with outcomes in the Local Area Agreement and the continuity of neighbourhood involvement and influence
- assets funded through the NDC programme continue to enable long-term benefit
- successor arrangements are financially viable
- an ongoing programme of substantial physical change and long term tenure rebalancing is continued and delivered.

The attached report outlines the Succession strategy prepared by the DRC Partnership in consultation with Council officers and the LSP.

1. In order to meet the requirements to maintain the comprehensive range of benefits achieved to date through the work of the DRC partnership, the partnership propose the creation of a local governance mechanism, Devonport Neighbourhood Board (DNB), which will be established to deliver a continuing neighbourhood management approach. The first year of this approach will be effected in the final year of the NDC, that is April 2010 to March 2011, enabling a robust transfer of skills and knowledge whilst the NDC team is still in place to support the 'road testing' of arrangements. The funding for the Neighbourhood Manager will be met from the NDC grant for a period of 3 years and will be achieved by working in partnership with the authority to substitute existing council spend for grant during 2009/10 with the authority setting aside an equivalent amount within an earmarked reserve. The Neighbourhood Manger would be a Council appointed Officer and will report to the Director of Development or such other Director as to be determined by CMT. After 3 years the viability of this post would need to be examined in the light of outcomes achieved, the Council's overall direction with regards to localities working and availability of funding from partners.
2. The DRC partnership have already in place 2 vehicles for protecting the use of assets purchased from grant monies :
 - Community Lands Trust
 - Community Leisure Trust

Both of these organisations have been in existence for a number of years. In agreeing to the succession strategy the authority is required to undertake a financial due diligence on the continuing viability of these 2 organisations. This work has yet to be completed.

The authority is aware that there remain outstanding issues relating to the governance model of the Community Lands Trust which have yet to be finally resolved with DCLG. The future use of Parkside also needs to be determined by the Council as this may have an impact on the lands trust future income stream..

There also remains outstanding issues around the Community Leisure Trust around the formal transfer of the Brickfields Sports centre

DRCP partnership have also drafted a letter of intent which it wishes the council to sign as part of the succession strategy. This is still subject to negotiation and agreement.

Corporate Plan 2009-2012:

The strategy has been developed through a comprehensive process, taking into account

- the experience and good practice from both within the NDC programme and other neighbourhood renewal initiatives that feature a 'customer centred' approach regarding service provision
- local demand for the continued involvement of residents in shaping improvements in service delivery
- building on the model developed through the NDC Board and partners
- recognition of the 'duty to involve' communities, incumbent on Public Service providers
- the LSP's locality working proposals for Plymouth
- the Sustainable Procurement Strategy for Plymouth
- the draft LSP Governance Guide
- Plymouth's 2020 Sustainable Community Strategy, 2007-2020
- Plymouth City Council's Corporate Improvement Plan, 2009-2012

- Plymouth Compact – improving partnership working between the public and third sectors

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Including finance, human, IT and land**

The succession strategy needs to be supported by a letter of intent from the City Council. A full detailed assessment of the letter of intent, which covers future agreements between the Council and DRCP will be required before the Council can be clear about financial and other service implications.

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that the Devonport Regeneration Community Partnership Succession Strategy be approved in principle further to additional work and subject to the following conditions

1. Completion of financial checks to include Neighbourhood Manager costs, Devonport Community Land and Leisure Limited Trusts and their asset bases.
2. Discussion and agreement to the letter of intent between DRCP and the City Council
3. The approval of Communities & Local Government of the Devonport Community Land trust governance arrangements
4. Completion of the review into the future use of Parkside by the Director for corporate Support
5. Subject to agreement that we will be engaged in the discussion between DRCP and DCLG during the period end of October to April 2010
6. Final approval of the strategy be delegated to the portfolio holder for Planning Regeneration and Economic Growth in consultation with the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Support.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

Background papers:

Sign off:

Fin	SW Corp Fin 9000 05	Leg	DVS 1054	HR	N/A	Corp Prop	N/A	IT	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating SMT Member :											