

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**UPDATE ON THE STATEMENT OF INTENT: ONE-COUNCIL COMMISSIONING  
AND COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

1.1 To update cabinet on progress with the implementation of the One-Council Commissioning Statement of Intent and the Community Right to Challenge

- The statement of intent was approved by cabinet in March 2012. It included an initial action plan.
- A progress report detailing key achievements during the first 6 months of its implementation is set out in the report.
- The Localism Act 2011 introduced new powers for local communities including a Community Right to Challenge. The Right came into force on 27 June 2012.
- The council's preparations and arrangements for the introduction of the Community Right to Challenge were recognised by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Details are set out in the report.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Statement of Intent: One-Council Commissioning**

- 2.1 The Statement of Intent was approved by cabinet in March 2012. The statement was produced as an initial step towards developing a more effective commissioning capability across the council.
- 2.2 A new council plan was approved in July 2012. The plan included an explicit undertaking to use modern commissioning techniques to drive value for money improvement in service delivery and enhance outcomes for local people.
- 2.3 More recently the preparations for the transition of Public Health responsibilities to local authorities in 2013 have increased focus on the growing importance of commissioning and joined-up service delivery.
- 2.4 The statement of intent recognised that significant progress had already been made in developing a service based commissioning capability in specific areas of the council. However it was acknowledged that further improvements were needed to ensure that our commissioning practices were joined-up,

consistent and focused on outcomes for people and communities in line with our One-Council vision.

- 2.5 The statement of intent was approved by cabinet in March 2012 and it was agreed that an update on its implementation would be provided after 6 months.
- 2.6 During the first six months that the statement of intent has been active the one-council approach to commissioning has begun to demonstrate real benefits. Appendix A sets out a summary of progress against the original action plan.
- 2.7 Key highlights include:
- Substantially improved collaborative working across commissioning teams with more effective consultation with service managers to help ensure that specified outcomes reflect council-wide needs. A notable example includes our work in support of Securing the Future of Leisure. Service areas from across the council have contributed to the project's development helping to shape the key outcomes.
  - Market development activities have commenced with soft market testing (SMT) being utilised much more widely across the council to inform our plans through external market consultation and constructive commercial challenge. For example through the Highways & Construction Soft Market Testing exercise service managers from across the key client areas have contributed to the process and will help shape the design of a new procurement model going forward.
  - A corporate commissioning programme has been developed which sets out the key corporate and operational commissioning activities for 2012/13. This has enhanced visibility of activity and opportunities for aligning commissioning plans, helping to eliminate commissioning overlaps through improved cross-council working.
  - The corporate commissioning programme has been published externally as a "Market Position Statement" in order to support market development, particularly across the voluntary and community sector. It has also become a key tool for supporting the Community Right to Challenge at local level.
  - The transfer of Public Health to the authority takes place in April 2013. A cross-council project team have been formed to support the transfer process and specific projects such as Obesity and Sexual Health.
- 2.8 In order to build on progress, it is proposed to develop the statement of intent leading to a corporate commissioning and procurement plan. This plan will recognise new responsibilities arising from the transfer of Public Health functions and seek to fully integrate our commissioning activities through a one-council commissioning delivery model shaped around our priority outcomes.

## **Community Right to Challenge**

2.9 The Community Right to Challenge came into force on 27 June 2012. The council's arrangements for the introduction of the community right included:

- The development of a web page providing a single gateway for the submission of challenges. The page contains appropriate advice, guidance and application forms together with a single submission address. This single gateway enables the council to effectively manage and process requests in a compliant, transparent and consistent manner.
- A Market Position Statement has been published. Our ability to provide comprehensive forward commissioning/procurement plans with indicative timescales is essential for managing challenges.
- Improving our transparency measures in line with the government's Open Public Services agenda, including the recent external publication of a "performance scorecard" via the council's web-site detailing our progress in achieving priorities.
- The Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) has highlighted the progress made by the council as being in the top ten of councils nationally who were prepared for the implementation of the Community Right to Challenge. The council was featured in a national case study and acknowledged by Bob Neill, the DCLG minister at the time of the implementation.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 Cabinet is invited to consider the recommendation to develop a corporate commissioning and procurement plan (as detailed in paragraph 2.8) to build on the progress made over the last 6 months.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 The proposal in paragraph 3.1 will enable the council to continue to develop its commissioning capabilities to support current and future priorities as well as optimise the effective use of existing procurement and commissioning resources.

### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

#### **5.1 Financial**

Effective commissioning will support the council's financial processes through improving focus on need, priorities and outcomes together with most effective service delivery option.

#### **5.2 Staffing**

No immediate staffing implications as improvements will initially be realised through cross-council working and collaboration.

Commissioning skills development is currently being considered by the organisational development team.

5.3 Property  
No immediate impacts

5.4 Information Technology  
No immediate impacts

**6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

6.1 Effective commissioning will improve outcomes and achievement of council priorities.

6.2 The Community Right to Challenge is a statutory requirement under the Localism Act 2011.

**7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The report has been considered and agreed by the strategic commissioning and procurement group.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That cabinet notes the progress made on implementing the One Council Commissioning Statement of Intent and the Community Right to Challenge.

8.2 That a corporate commissioning plan and delivery model shaped around our priority outcomes, as detailed in paragraph 2.8, is produced for consideration by cabinet in October 2013.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**

Community Right to Challenge Process Framework  
One Council Statement of Intent

## Appendix A –One council commissioning action plan update

Ref:	Activity:	Due Date:	Owner:	Current Status:
1	Agree statement of intent at Cabinet	13/4/2012	SCPG	COMPLETE – Statement of Intent agreed at Cabinet
2	Develop the role of the Strategic Commissioning and Procurement group to oversee the initiation of a corporate commissioning programme	March 2012	SCPG	COMPLETE – group have agreed to oversee the initiation of the Corporate Commissioning Programme.
3	Develop a corporate commissioning programme (key projects) informed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Plans 2012-2016,</li> <li>• Community Right to Challenge</li> <li>• Service commissioning plans</li> </ul>	April 2012	SCPG	COMPLETE – Commissioning programme has been developed and published on the council’s web site.
3.1	Activities identified in the Commissioning programme to be divided into the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Commissioning (Cross Council)</li> <li>• Routine Commissioning (Operational &amp; Service Specific)</li> <li>• Procurement</li> </ul>	April 2012	SCPG	COMPLETE – Appended to the Market Position Statement and published on the internet
4	Identify commissioning overlaps across projects and wider implications of specific commissioning proposals.	May 2012	SCPG	COMMENCED – the key commissioning projects have been mapped against the council priorities and outcomes. Further thought and discussion required as to how wider overlaps can be identified.
5	Re-shape and finalise corporate commissioning programme	May 2012	SCPG	COMPLETE - The corporate Commissioning Programme has been shared with the One-Council Commissioning Delivery Group (SPCG sub-group), and will be shared with the SPCG. Document has been appended to the MPS and published to coincide with the CRTC date.
6	Approval of corporate commissioning programme	May 2012	SCPG	COMPLETE – document finalised and published.
7	Establish Improvement & Value for Money team as the programme office for corporate commissioning activity	May 2012	SCPG	COMPLETE - Improvement & Value for Money team as the programme office for corporate commissioning activity
8	Produce market position statement	June 2012	SCPG	COMPLETE and published (see 3.1)
9	Commence market development activities	June 2012	SCPG	ON-GOING Activities have commenced. This is being achieved through the publication of the Market position Statement which outlines our

Ref:	Activity:	Due Date:	Owner:	Current Status:
				Commissioning projects, and through various Soft market testing activities and other events that are underway/planned across the council.
10	Commence and deliver specific commissioning projects via collaborative cross-council project teams	June 2012	SCPG	COMPLETE - An inaugural meeting of the One-Council Commissioning Delivery Group (SCPG sub-group) took place on Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> May. Leisure project has been supported through the group. Work to continues through the delivery group to continue support for the other key commissioning projects, and the health transfer to the council.
11	Review corporate commissioning programme and update for 2013-14	Feb 2013	SCPG	NOT YET DUE