

Subject: East Lancashire Leaders' and Chief Executives' Group (ELLCHEX).

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 6 June 2007

Report of: Chief Executive

Portfolio

Holder: The Leader

Key Decision:

NO

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency "X" In
Relevant Box

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the role of the East Lancashire Leaders' and Chief Executives' Group (ELLCHEX) and progress to date. The report also seeks delegated approval to explore the feasibility in relation to the establishment of a City Development Company and Multi-Area Agreement for Pennine Lancashire.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the Council's objectives and the following corporate objectives:

- Delivering Regeneration across the Borough
- Promoting Rossendale as a place to live and visit.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The concepts of City Development Companies and Multi-Area Agreements were introduced in the 2006 White Paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities. More detailed work is required to develop the understanding of what these concepts could mean in a Pennine Lancashire context, and the implications for Rossendale. Involvement in the early stages of the discussions will allow Rossendale Borough Council to help shape the outcome.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 Rossendale, together with the five other districts that comprise Pennine Lancashire (Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, and Ribble Valley), face a number of challenges if they are to match the growth of other areas in Lancashire and the North West. As a response to these challenges the East Lancashire Leaders' and Chief Executives' Group (ELLCHEX) was established in 2006.
- 4.2 Membership of the ELLCHEX Group is: Leaders (or Deputy Leaders) and Chief Executives of the six local authorities, representatives of Lancashire County Council, the Chief Executives of Elevate, Lancashire Economic Partnership and East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Chief Executive of East Lancashire Primary Care Trust is also invited to attend the meetings. The primary objective of the Group is to promote the regeneration of East Lancashire.
- 4.3 The main focus of the Group is to deliver the Pennine Lancashire Transformational Agenda, which was developed as part of the Elevate Scheme Update, 2006-19. ELLCHEX operates through a number of working groups and the structure is shown in the diagram at Appendix A. The Transformational Agenda includes a range of projects from establishing a University, improving rail links to Manchester, developing a number of high profile visitor attractions and re-branding East Lancashire with a more positive image (including the re-naming of the area to become Pennine Lancashire). A number of key developments are in hand including:
- Pennine Lancashire Racecourse – in the centre of the area, which will be completely funded by the private sector.
 - £17.8m bid for NWDA funding to improve the economy in support of the Housing market Renewal Pathfinder.
- 4.4 The Transformational Agenda is being reviewed and the first draft of a new strategy will be produced by June 2007, with a final draft being agreed in July 2007. It is intended that the new Transformational Agenda will provide a comprehensive strategy for Pennine Lancashire for the next 13 years and will include a delivery plan that will be reviewed annually.
- 4.5 In addition to the Transformational Agenda, ELLCHEX is the governance body for a number of funding streams, including LEGI and NWDA funding for the economy in support of the Elevate HMR programme.
- 4.6 Further focus for ELLCHEX includes joint working across the area and in response to the Local Government White Paper exploring the advantages of establishing a Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) and City Development Company (CDC) for Pennine Lancashire. Cabinet is requested to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to enter into discussions with other districts on the feasibility of the delivery vehicles. A

further report will then be brought back to Cabinet outlining options for the next steps.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial implications from the report; however, as projects are developed further there may be a requirement for financial support.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 6.1 .An input will be required from Legal Services to consider the legal implications for Rossendale of the City Development Company and the Multi Area Agreement for Pennine Lancashire. Legal Services will provide comments on the options report.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7.1 There are no staffing implications at this stage. Human Resources Service will provide comments on the options report.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The aim of the Transformational Agenda is for Pennine Lancashire to become an area with a vibrant economy and higher quality of life for residents. In order to achieve this, all the key players in the area must work together. The MAA and CDC delivery vehicles have the potential to maximize the effectiveness of this approach. Further exploration will help identify the benefits as well as any potential risk areas.

9 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 That the remit and progress of the East Lancashire Leaders' and Chief Executives' Group be noted.
- 9.2 That approval is delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to explore the feasibility in relation to the establishment of a City Development Company and Multi-Area Agreement for Pennine Lancashire.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Consultation will take place as part of the feasibility

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Transformational Agenda: Elevate	Stephen Jackson Futures Park, Bacup

EAST LANCASHIRE LEADERS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES OPERATIONAL GROUPS

