

Subject: PLACE Leaders Group – Joint Committee

Status: For Publication

Report to: Governance Working Group
Cabinet
Council

Date: 12th August
14th October 2009
3rd November 2009

Report of: Director of Business

Portfolio

Holders: Leader and Regeneration

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for the formation of a Pennine Lancashire Local Authority Joint Committee to fulfil the following functions and for Rossendale to become a member of the Committee:

- monitoring the implementation of the Multi Area Agreement (“MAA”)
- provide strategic oversight to the Pennine Lancashire Development Company and other MAA delivery partners
- determining the allocation of resources made available to the authorities jointly
- Develop, agree and manage the following strategies for Pennine Lancashire: economic; housing; transport; spatial; integrated delivery plans and investment frameworks.
- commission and publish research to support its functions
- respond to government consultations which affect the whole area of Pennine Lancashire

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:-

- Delivering quality Services to our customers

- Delivering regeneration across the Borough
- Encouraging healthy and respectful communities
- Keeping our Borough clean, green and safe
- Promoting the Borough
- Providing value for money services

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The need to ensure proper governance of a body which is not under the Council's control
- Financial and decision-making transparency

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 PLACE is an established body that has overseen the development of:

- the Pennine Lancashire MAA and Integrated Economic Strategy;
- various shared service initiatives;
- other strategy development (e.g. housing and spatial planning)
- Programme delivery (e.g. LEGI / NWDA's Economic HMR programme).

4.2 Over the last two years the increasing status and significance of PLACE has been recognised locally, regionally and nationally. The Multi Area Agreement, signed by Pennine Lancashire and Government in January 2009 has given the opportunity for increased amounts of funding and responsibility to be directed to the group.

4.3 PLACE's current legal and constitutional status as an informal partnership is insufficient for funding bodies such as the RDA and HACA to consider devolving programme funding. Funding bodies will require assurance that PLACE has formal processes and procedures in existence to deal with issues such as prioritisation of projects and dispute resolution.

4.4 In signing to the MAA government were also approving our proposed new governance structure; adopting a Joint Committee is the most appropriate framework to allow us to drive home the opportunity the MAA affords.

4.5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.6 A Joint Committee carrying out the functions identified in 1.1 will position Pennine Lancashire well with regards wider Government policy. The MAA, Sub National Review and subsequent legislation has provided a policy context which requires us to look at how we work together, and in doing so formalising years of effective partnership work.

4.7 The Joint Committee would comprise the following local authorities

- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Burnley Borough Council
- Hyndburn Borough Council
- Lancashire County Council
- Pendle Borough Council
- Ribble Valley Borough Council
- Rossendale Borough Council

Each authority will appoint one elected member, presumed to be the Leader, and each authority will have one vote only. In most cases decisions will be taken by qualified majority (ie a minimum of 5 votes in favour).

- 4.8.1 The Joint Committee will be supported by a Chief Executives Group; and form part of a Governance structure that will include: a Business Leaders Forum, Community and Voluntary Board and a number of thematic sub-groups. (See attached Pennine Lancashire Governance Structure).
- 4.8.2 Scrutiny of the Joint Committee will be undertaken through the respective Councils existing scrutiny processes.
- 4.8.3 The Joint Committee will be supported by the PLACE Strategy Unit.
- 4.8.4 Pennine Lancashire Development Company will deliver elements of the MAA and Integrated Economic Strategy on behalf of PLACE.

The formation of a Joint Committee will provide the framework for increased collaboration, reduce duplication and a pooling of expertise and capacity across Pennine Lancashire.

4.8.5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.8.6 The PLACE Joint Committee will be responsible for determining the allocation of resources made available through the MAA, to MAA delivery partners, including local authorities and the Peninne Lancashire Development Company.
- 4.8.7 As agreed in the MAA, Lancashire County County Council will act as Accountable Body and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will carry out the programme management function for funds secured through the MAA.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 PLACE and its associated projects (e.g. The MAA, Pennine Lancashire development Company) will indirectly have financial implications which will require further consideration in due course. The immediate recommendations however, do not have any direct financial implications.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 As a formal Joint Committee PLACE Leaders will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to access to information and committee administration.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1 No HR comments.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The new joint committee will present a new mechanism for channeling funds to the Pennine Lancashire sub-region as well as facilitating joint working and coordinated strategy.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 That the Place Constitution be agreed and signed on behalf of the Council.
- 9.2 That Council approves the Leader of the Council to join the PLACE Joint Committee.
- 9.3 That the Council's constitution be amended to give effect to the new body.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 None

11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Is a Community Impact Assessment required No
- Is a Community Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No
- Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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| Background Papers | |
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| Document | Place of Inspection |
| Draft documents and correspondence | Futures Park |