

SUBJECT: VISION 2020 - REDUCE INEQUALITY PROGRESS REPORT

DIRECTORATE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Performance Scrutiny Committee with an update on progress towards the Reduce Inequality strategic priority contained in Vision 2020.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report focuses on progress made towards the Reduce Inequality priority, and covers both those projects being progressed in year one, along with the 'day to day' service activities that happen across the council that are vital to the delivery of this priority.

3. Background

- 3.1 Vision 2020 was published in January 2017, and contains four strategic priorities (Reduce Inequality; Economic Growth; Quality Housing; and Remarkable Place), along with an important strand of work focusing on High Performing Services.
- 3.2 As part of the arrangements for managing and monitoring progress of Vision 2020, the council established four Vision Groups along with a High Performing Services Board, each with a Corporate Management Team lead.
- 3.3 It has been agreed Performance Scrutiny Committee will receive a report each quarter from one of these Vision Groups to enable them to look in more detail at the progress of that Vision Group's work programme. This report is the second of these reports, and focuses on the work of the Reduce Inequality Vision Group.
- 3.4 The Reduce Inequality Vision Group is leading on delivering the following council aspirations under this priority:
- Let's help people succeed
 - Let's provide help to the most vulnerable in our city
 - Let's help people feel safe and welcome in their communities
 - Let's empower people
 - Let's ensure the best quality of life for people living in Lincoln
- 3.5 In addition to all the 'day to day' services the council offers which is central to the delivery of these aspirations, a programme of projects and initiatives has been developed for 2017/18 to ensure the delivery of this strategic priority.

4 Position Statement (Appendix A)

- 4.1 The Position Statement is attached to this report as Appendix A. It captures the 'day to day' work by the council that is integral to delivering this strategic priority. This was captured to ensure we understand what our current baseline is for delivering this priority, and to recognise how all staff across the authority have a role in delivering Vision 2020.

5 Project Monitoring Table (Appendix B)

- 5.1 The Project Monitoring Table provides an overview of the year one projects for this strategic priority, and is attached to this report as Appendix B.
- 5.2 There are 17 projects in the year one programme for Reduce Inequality.
- 5.3 Of these, 16 projects are on track for delivery, of which all but one have achieved all their milestones on time. Additionally, despite the council only being within the first year of Vision 2020, this strategic priority has seen some notable successes:
- City of Lincoln Council (COLC) has successfully applied to the Skills Funding Agency to become a supporting provider for apprenticeships, paving the way for us to secure contracts up to the value of £500k, which would in part be earmarked to cover the cost of the apprenticeship scheme.
 - A robust business plan for The Network has been completed to ensure it has strong financial and operational leadership throughout 2017 and 2018. This will see it continue to work with providers to support young people with guidance and advice; and engage with schools to help reach those needing advice quickly.
 - The Lincolnshire bid for multi-agency support for rough sleepers was successful. This is a countywide initiative that has been awarded £1.3m to provide support to rough sleepers across the county, with 60% of those that will benefit estimated to be in Lincoln.
 - Regular monthly meetings are taking place to monitor the impact of both Welfare Reform and Universal Credit, and personal budgeting support is now being provided by COLC to Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) clients.
 - A Social Value Policy has been drafted which will provide guidance to project managers when going through a procurement exercise to extract additional social value for the city from the contract. This is subject to approval at Executive in October 2017.
- 5.4 There is one project that has been flagged as 'red' which seeks to promote access to a range of financial products. The main delivery channel for this project was intended to be Lincoln Money, which was run by an external organisation that also oversaw the Sheffield Money service. The organisation overseeing this service has ceased to trade, causing the delivery of the project to be delayed.
- 5.5 As a result, discussions are taking place with Lincolnshire Financial Inclusion Partnership to explore other options for promoting access to a range of financial products. We are also actively signposting and working with Lincolnshire Credit Union to ensure their services and products are also accessible.

6. Emerging Performance Indicators (Appendix C)

- 6.1 As part of the development of the year one work programme for this strategic priority, project briefs for each of the projects were developed. This includes development of a set of performance indicators to monitor the outcomes of these projects once they are completed.
- 6.2 Due to the fact it is still early days and many of the projects are yet to be completed, it is too early to collect many of the indicators. Therefore, performance of this strategic priority at this stage is largely monitored through the delivery of milestones.
- 6.3 Nevertheless, Appendix C does show the indicators allocated to each project, and for those where data can start to be collected, this has been populated.
- 6.4 Over time, as more projects are completed, more performance data will be added to the table to ensure the full range of indicators can be considered by Performance Scrutiny Committee in future Reduce Inequality Progress Reports.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 Performance Scrutiny Committee to consider the progress report of the Reduce Inequality Vision Group.

Is this a key decision? No

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? Three

List of Background Papers: None

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