

**SUBJECT: REDUCE INEQUALITY PROGRESS REPORT**

**DIRECTORATE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK**

**REPORT AUTHOR: ANGELA ANDREWS**

## **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. Background**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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. Each Vision Group reports once annually to Performance Scrutiny Committee on progress.
- 2.3 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
- 2.4 For the first time, this report is being submitted alongside the Portfolio Holder report for Reducing Inequality, providing Performance Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth review of the Reduce Inequality strategic priority and portfolio. The format of this report has therefore changed slightly from last year's report, so as to avoid duplication between the two reports. For example, key performance indicators have been included in the Portfolio Holder report, instead of this report.
- 2.5 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 Phase Two of Vision 2020, to ensure the delivery of this strategic priority.

## **3. Position Statement (Appendix A)**

- 3.1 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 the resource committed across the council, and to recognise how all staff across the authority have a role in delivering

Vision 2020.

#### **4. Project Monitoring Table (Appendix B)**

- 4.1 The Project Monitoring Table provides an overview of the Phase Two projects for this strategic priority, and is attached to this report as Appendix B.
- 4.2 There are 14 live projects in the Phase Two work programme for Reduce Inequality.
- 4.3 In addition, since the last meeting, two Vision 2020 projects have been completed. These are;
- Development of a Social Value Policy to ensure all relevant contracts and procurement practices include social value criteria. This policy has now been approved by Executive and adopted. Copies of the policy have been circulated to business stakeholder groups and contractors, and all Vision Groups have been briefed on the importance of using the policy to achieve social value through procurement.
  - Assist the Islamic Association with community work while the mosque is built. Community work has taken place, and regular meetings between the city council and the Islamic Association have happened. In addition, ward members were kept informed throughout the development of the mosque, and the council took part in the successful mosque opening day.
- 4.4 Of the 14 live projects, nine are flagged as Green (meaning they are meeting their milestones); and no projects are flagged as Red (meaning none are substantially off track). In addition to the completed projects above, some notable progress has been made in the delivery of this strategic priority:
- The council has set up a new Universal Credit Support Team which has provided digital and budgeting support to hundreds of residents from the Lincoln and District DWP area. Between April and September 2018, 360 people have been provided digital support; 123 people have been provided budgeting support; and 55 people have been provided combined budgeting and digital support.
  - The Reduce Inequality Vision Group has supported Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee in a review of inclusive growth in the city. This took place over a number of committee meetings, and included external representatives from the DWP, Tesco, Linkage Community Trust, the University of Lincoln, and the Bailgate Guild. The review considered both the supply and demand sides of inclusive growth, and resulted in development of a work programme that the Vision Group is now overseeing.
  - The Council has made a submission to the Controlling Migration Fund to deliver a number of projects across the city. A successful bid would enable a new project that can enable a programme of employability courses delivered across the city, building on the successes of the existing project delivered in partnership with Lincoln College which is nearing completion.

- The council is close to completing a substantial suicide reduction training programme that will equip frontline council officers in supporting people that may be at risk of suicide. The courses are taking place between May and December 2018, with over 400 places available.
- The Lincoln Social Responsibility Charter was launched, which encourages employers across Lincoln to go above and beyond in supporting their communities and their employees across Lincoln and the surrounding area.

4.5 There are three projects flagged as Amber. None of the project outcomes are delayed, but have instead been flagged as Amber to ensure they are monitored closely by the Reduce Inequality Vision Group as a result of a number of external factors. Mitigating actions are in place for each of these actions, which are detailed in Appendix B.

- The Network project is Amber due to the need to develop a business case and plan prior to its funding ending in 2019/20.
- The Social Impact Bond project for rough sleepers has been flagged as Amber as a result of delays in some parts of the county in transferring the management of some properties to P3. This has impacted on the project's short term cash flow.
- The Universal Credit support project has been flagged as Amber following a national DWP announcement that in the future, Universal Credit support will be provided by Citizens Advice. This will impact the work currently undertaken by the Council in supporting Universal Credit customers, and so a business case will be developed on future ways of working. In addition, Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee will undertake a review of the national decision at their meeting on 18 December 2018, which will further inform the development of future ways of working.

## **5. Performance Indicators**

5.1 A set of performance indicators has been developed for the Reduce Inequality strategic priority, which have been included in the *Measuring Performance* section of the Portfolio Holder report for Reducing Inequality.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 Performance Scrutiny Committee considers the progress report of the Reduce Inequality Vision Group.

## **7. Strategic Priorities**

### **7.1 Let's Reduce Inequality**

This report captures the progress of the Reduce Inequality Vision Group, whose remit is to ensure the delivery of this strategic priority.

## **8. Organisational Impacts**

8.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

There are no financial implications arising from this report

8.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

There are no legal implications arising from this report

8.3 Equality and diversity

There are no E&D implications arising from this report

**9. Recommendation**

9.1 To consider the progress of the vision group and this strategic priority

**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?**

Two

**List of Background Papers:**

None

**Lead Officer:**

Angela Andrews, Chief Executive and Town Clerk  
Telephone (01522) 873300