

CHOOSING TO CHANGE – UPDATE REPORT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Elaine Woodburn
LEAD OFFICER: Interim Chief Executive
REPORT AUTHOR: Brian Dinsdale

Summary: Full Council agreed a Communication and Engagement Plan in December 2009 for the Choosing to Change Programme and a key action arising from this plan is to provide Council with a regular update on progress. This report provides an update on the Choosing to Change Programme since the last report to full council on 2 March 2010.

Recommendation: Council is asked to:

- (a) Agree to the proposals in respect of the Corporate Improvement Board in paragraph 2.2.1 (Table 1) of this report
- (b) Accept the additional support from the IDeA outlined in paragraph 2.3
- (c) Note the progress being made in establishing revised LSP arrangements for Copeland
- (d) Endorse the bid to the NW IEP for additional resources amounting to £85K, to complete phase 1 of the C2C programme, and authorise a further bid in respect of phase 2 once the new Chief Executive has been appointed.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Council on 8 December 2009 agreed to a number of recommendations in relation to the Choosing to Change (C2C) Programme, including the Terms of Reference for the Choosing to Change Board, Roles and Responsibilities, Critical Success Factors, the Communication and Engagement Plan and the overarching Objectives for the programme. It also delegated responsibility to the Choosing to Change Board to make funding applications to the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP) and others in order to support the objectives of the programme. Full Council on 2 March 2010 received a report that proposed an alignment between the council ‘policy and financial planning’ process and the C2C agenda, with a requirement to produce a detailed plan, incorporating the priority actions drawn from the agreed C2C programme. Proposals were also made in respect of the Corporate Improvement Board and update of council procedure rules. All these matters were considered by the C2C Board on 30 March as follows:

2. CHOOSING TO CHANGE BOARD MEETING – 30 March 2010

2.1 At its meeting on 30 March 2010 the Board received reports on a number of issues as follows:

2.2 Governance and Leadership

2.2.1 The Board received a report on behalf of the Constitutional Working Group setting out revised council procedure rules, a member/employee protocol, a modernisation of appointments to outside bodies and recommendations concerning the termination of the Corporate Improvement Board. C2C Board members discussed these at length and suggested a number of changes, and, with the exception of proposals relating to the Corporate Improvement Board, these are incorporated in the reports on these subjects elsewhere on the council agenda. With regard to the Corporate Improvement Board, the Constitutional Working Group recommended that the Council should agree that the Board should be disbanded, and requested the C2C Board to review its terms of reference and report to Council on how its current responsibilities should be discharged in future, on the understanding that the Corporate Improvement Board, or its equivalent should be reinstated as appropriate by Council (on the advice of the C2C Board) once the work of the C2C Board has been completed. The recommendations relating to the Corporate Improvement Board are set out in table 1 below:

Table 1 – Transfer of responsibilities from the Corporate Improvement Board

Current Terms of Reference Activities	Suggested Alternative
Monitoring delivery of Corporate Plan and National Indicators	OSC monitoring in detail. Executive for approval and for exception reports on performance
CAA- preparing for it and receiving inspection reports	Audit Committee, Corporate Team
Review progress in improvement arising from External Auditor on areas such as vfm; Access to Services; Use of resources; Organisational Assessment	Audit Committee
Customer focussed service approach	OSC, Corporate Team
Locality Working	Locality Working Member Advisory Group
Oversee the Process Change programme following service and corporate planning processes	Choosing to Change Board, Corporate Team; OSC , Joint Consultative and Safety Panel

Former Terms of Reference	Other Bodies Involved
Receive new PIDs and monitor progress in delivering	Executive; Capital Control and Monitoring Group

2.2.2 The Board also received and discussed a report recommending revised overview and scrutiny arrangements and this is included elsewhere on this Council agenda

2.3 Peer Support from the IDeA

The Board received a report from the IDeA Improvement Manager offering an extension of support, at no extra cost to the council, of 15 'Improvement Manager' days and 20 'Member Peer' days, in order to continue to support the C2C programme to March 2011. This was welcomed by Board members and agreed.

2.4 Progress report – Copeland LSP Arrangements

The Board received a summary report presented by the 'local improvement advisor', commissioned by the NW IEP on behalf of the council to examine Copeland's future LSP arrangements. The report acknowledged actions to date in agreeing to retain the Sustainable Community Strategy for West Cumbria until March 2011 to fulfil statutory obligations on the council and the progress being made in developing locality arrangements and the intention to review urgently with partners the future remit of the public services delivery board and thematic groups, which continue to operate until such time as new arrangements are agreed, thus allowing the council to continue to consult appropriately with its partners.

The report set out progress to date and recommended that the council should spend a preparatory period readying itself as an organisation for the establishment of the new LSP, with a process adopted to stimulate 'buy in' from key partners through an early 'roundtable' discussion. This was agreed by Board members, and in preparation for this it was also agreed to convene a meeting between Group Leaders, IDeA, the 'local improvement advisor' and council officers to map out a way forward; this meeting to be held in April.

2.5 Bid for additional resources

The Board received a report from the Interim Chief Executive which recommended:

1. A delivery and communications plan required by the NW IEP relating to their initial offer of support of £50K for the C2C programme
2. A bid for further support from the NW IEP amounting to £85K to complete phase 1 of the C2C programme
3. An agreement to submit a further bid in due course to the NW IEP for phase 2 of the C2C programme, once the new Chief Executive has been appointed

The Board discussed the progress to date in defining the programme more explicitly, and acknowledged the need to provide additional capacity to fulfil its requirements, which will require additional external support. The recommendations of the Interim Chief Executive were therefore accepted.

2.6 Corporate Planning Framework

The Board agreed a detailed timetable setting out key actions and timescales relating to the overall corporate planning cycle for 2010/11

3. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A budget of £100K of council resources is available to meet the C2C programme, and a further sum of £50K has been approved by the NW IEP subject to the identification of satisfactory outcomes and timescales. This is being deployed to completing phase 1 of the constitutional review and contributing to the service planning process required within the council. In kind support amounting to £51.98K has also been secured from the IDEA, which has now been increased by a further £6000 to pay for additional support from member peers and an additional as yet unquantified sum to meet an additional 15 days of support from the improvement manager. It is expected that the C2C programme will require further external resource to complete phase 1, and a bid for £85K to the NW IEP has been approved by the C2C Board, and was submitted on 31 March 2010. Council is being requested to endorse this bid as this meeting. Completion of the programme will also require considerable input from council officers, which will affect their day to day duties. This will be monitored by Directors and the Interim Chief executive on a continuous basis, and where necessary reported to the C2C Board.

List of Consultees:

Choosing to Change Board, Corporate Team, C2C
Reference Group, Chief executive NW IEP

Background Papers:

Choosing to Change Board Agenda and Papers 16.2.10
Report by Improvement Advisor, Review of LSP
Arrangements