



Chester-le-Street District Council

REPORT TO: Council

DATE OF MEETING: 19th March 2009

REPORT OF: Director of Corporate Services

SUBJECT: 'Handing Over the Baton' Report

ITEM NUMBER:

1 Purpose and Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members of Approval for the 'Handing over the Baton Report'
- 1.2 The document is included in Appendix 1 to the report. The document has been an important component of the final year's single priority of '**People and Place**'. It is intended to deliver a comprehensive range of messages to the new unitary. The written document which is subject to this report will be supplemented by a range of other forms of communications detailed in this report to Members. The written document is directed at the new unitary authority particularly and other stakeholders generally. It will be provided in a form where access can be gained to the evidence and information that support the messages that it incorporates. The written document will be supported by a DVD from the community and a public summary in the form of a final edition of District News.
- 1.3 Members are recommended to:
- 1) Approve the 'Handing over the Baton Report' set out in Appendix 1

2. Consultation

- 2.1 The Chief Executive, Directors, and Service Team Managers and key staff have been engaged in the preparation of the 'Handing over the Baton Report'
- 2.2 The Executive considered the report at a workshop following the formal Executive meeting on 2nd March 2009. No other consultations were considered necessary at this stage including external consultations or engagement including the County Council.

3. Transition Plan and People and Place Priority

- 3.1 The Transition Plan replaced the Corporate Plan 2007/2010. The Transition Plan includes a schedule of proposals from the previous seven priorities which ought to be and can be achieved in the remaining life of the council.
- 3.2 The council's choice to move towards a single priority of '**People and Place**' priority was considered as part of the budget setting process last year.
- 3.3 The 'Handing over the Baton Report' has been planned as a final part of the '**People and Place**' priority. A final report on the progress of the priority was considered at the meeting of the Executive on 2nd February 2009 where it was agreed that the aims of the single priority had been achieved.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications and value for money statement

It has been considered important to ensure that the 'Handing over the Baton Report' was prepared to aid the transition. It is considered that it is a valuable reference guide which represents value for money.

4.2 Local Government Reorganisation Implications

It is considered that the 'Handing over the Baton Report' will be a valuable resource for the new unitary and stakeholders alike.

4.3 Legal

It is not felt that there are any significant legal issues arising from this report.

4.4 Personnel

There are no personnel issues arising from the report and recommendations. The report highlights the importance of the council's approach to Organisational Development.

4.5 Other Services

The report has been the result of a lot of hard work of Members and officers across the council

4.6 Diversity

There are no specific diversity issues in respect of the 'Handing over the Baton Report'. It highlights the importance of mainstreaming equality and diversity within the new organisation. The Report will be placed on the council's website and will therefore be accessible.

4.7 Risk

It is not felt that there are any risks to this council as a result of this report. There may be risks to the new unitary if it is unable to share the council's learning.

4.8 Crime and Disorder

It is not felt there are any specific implications of the report on Crime and Disorder.

4.9 Data Quality

Every care has been taken in the development of this report to ensure that the information and data used in its preparation and the appendices attached are accurate, valid, reliable, timely, relevant and complete. The council's Data Quality Policy has been complied with in producing this report. The report highlights progress made at Chester-I-Street on data quality.

4.10 Other Implications

It is proposed that there will be a formal hand over of the report to the County council. This will be supported by a DVD produced by members of the community. The voluntary sector has already presented to the County Council Cabinet. It is considered that the information will be communicated to the community and stakeholders by inclusion on the web-site. There are considered to be no significant issues arising out of the subject matter of the report.

5. BACKGROUND, POSITION STATEMENT AND OPTION APPRAISAL

5.1 Chester-le-Street District Council will no longer exist on 1st April 2009. In order to assist the new unitary understand how the council has worked with its communities to improve their well being and social capital, the 'Handing over the Baton Report' has been produced. This is set out in Appendix 1.

5.2 The report addresses the important issues and messages it has been felt needed to be passed over to the new unitary authority. The report therefore includes messages about both the communities' and the council's improvement journey. The report is more than a written document as it will be

DVD based and will have hyperlinks to the evidence behind the issues raised and additional information to help the new unitary sustain the progress made.

- 5.3 In handing over its powers and responsibilities the District Council feels it is important to set out how communities have worked with the council over the years. By doing this the District Council hopes that the new unitary council can build on the work the communities of Chester-le-Street have undertaken to improve their lives. It is hoped that the new unitary council can continue current working partnerships and relationships and take forward the existing and planned projects, plans and strategies which are responding to our communities' priorities and ambitions.
- 5.4 In support of the written document which is subject to this report, a short film has been produced with local communities to get over some of the main issues the 'Handing over the Baton Report' raises. This will be presented to district councilors at the pre-council meeting on the 19th March. In addition the final edition of District News has been designed to be a summary, public version of the 'Handing over the Baton Report'.
- 5.5 When approved by Members there will be a formal handing over of the document to the new unitary. The form of this is currently being discussed with the Chief Executive of the County Council.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Members are recommended to:

1) Approve the "Handing over the Baton Report" set out in Appendix 1

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS / DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO

- 7.1 'Handing Over the Baton Report' March 2009

Ian Forster
Director of Corporate Services
5th March 2009
Version 1.0

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