



REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNTY COUNCIL BUSINESS DINNER

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the Council to host a business dinner on 31st January 2013, the aim of which will be to soft-launch the Nottinghamshire Growth Plan and to capture business feedback. The dinner will also provide an opportunity for the Chairman of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership to outline his ambitions for the area to Nottinghamshire's business leaders.

Information and Advice

2. The Council has a long-standing and pro-active approach towards engaging businesses in Nottinghamshire, as evidenced by the signing of the Federation of Small Business 'Business Engagement Accord' in 2009. The accord commits the Council to actively seeking the views and input of the small business community, which is managed through the Nottinghamshire Business Engagement Group. Alongside this small business engagement, the Leader of the Council, Committee chairs and the Chief Executive regularly visit Nottinghamshire's larger employers to have detailed discussions about the Nottinghamshire economy, the business perspective on growth and related issues. A list of the companies visited to date is offered at Appendix A.
3. The Council has been facilitating the drafting of a Growth Plan for Nottinghamshire since the spring of 2012. A draft version of the plan was published for consultation in November 2012. Feedback on the plan was broadly positive, with some challenge for the plan to be more ambitious and detailed in terms of its impact and outcomes. Redrafting of the plan is ongoing, with a view to a final version being presented to the Council's Policy Committee in March 2013.
4. As part of the final drafting and consultation, it is proposed that the Council host a business dinner at the end of January 2013. 53 key business and civic leaders have been invited to attend, alongside 8 key Elected Members and corporate directors. The maximum attendance will be 60 and the dinner will be hosted in the Rufford Suite.

Costs

5. The estimated costs of hosting the dinner are as outlined below. These will be met from the Economic Development budget's approved allocation for business engagement.

Element	Cost
Venue hire	Nil
Catering and facilities staff	£648.60
Food and table settings	£335
Drinks reception and drinks with meal	£150
Total	£1133.60

Other Options Considered

6. The Committee could decide not to agree to the proposed business dinner.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. To enable direct consultation of Nottinghamshire's key business leaders on the Nottinghamshire Growth Plan, and to introduce the Chairman of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership to the local business community.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That approval is given for the business dinner as outlined

Mick Burrows
Chief Executive

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Celia Morris (72043)

Constitutional Comments (SG 17.01.2013)

9. The Committee is the appropriate body to decide the issues in this Report. Under its Terms of Reference the Committee has responsibility for authorising hospitality to be offered by the County Council.

Financial Comments (DJK 17.01.2013)

10. The contents of this report are duly noted; the financial implications are fully explained and there is sufficient revenue budget availability to contain this expenditure.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

.....