

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICES, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH & THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES

TRANSFER OF COUNTY ENTERPRISE FOODS FROM THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO PLACE DEPARTMENT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Committee approval to transfer County Enterprise Foods (CEF) from the Adult Social Care & Health department to Catering and Facilities Management (CFM) in Place department.

Information

2. CEF is the only supplier of hot meals 'meals on wheels' across Nottinghamshire and has been delivering meals at home for over 30 years. In addition to home delivery, the service also delivers to businesses and other local authorities and in 2018/19 they provided over 216,000 meals, an average of nearly 600 meals per day.
3. The service caters for a variety of dietary needs, with over 70 meals available in the CEF range, and operates from two sites – a food production unit in Worksop and a distribution hub in Rainworth.
4. Catering and Facilities Management produce 36,000 meals per day, primarily school meals for 270 primary (infant & junior) and secondary schools, as well as running the catering operations for County Council office buildings across Nottinghamshire.

County Enterprise Foods (CEF)

5. County Enterprise Foods was set up in 1987 to provide supported employment, with protected job roles, for people with either a physical or learning disability, and to provide chilled and frozen meals for the Council's own meals on wheels service.
6. There are currently 22 protected jobs at CEF and 46 people have benefitted from the scheme since 1987. Supported employees are given continuous support in terms of buddying, mentoring, extra supervision and holistic and pastoral support to enable them to fulfil their roles. The Council receives funding from Access to Work to help cover the cost of the scheme.

Catering and Facilities Management (CFM)

7. Catering & Facilities Management employs over 2,500 staff, some 1,160 full-time equivalents, across Nottinghamshire. In addition to schools catering, staff are employed in cleaning, landscaping and grounds maintenance.
8. The Catering & Facilities Management group produces over 7 million meals annually, and as such has longstanding expertise in large scale commercial food production and logistics.

Rationale for transfer

9. Across CEF and CFM there are obvious food related synergies around nutrition, allergens, food safety and supply chain as well as business development synergies around marketing and account management.
10. The skill set of the CFM group is geared towards the operational delivery of commercial catering services so it is proposed that CEF will move into this existing management structure.
11. Increasing the volume of food produced at the County Enterprise Foods central production unit in Worksop would help to utilise some of the capacity at the site without an increase in costs.
12. The Council is committed to providing employment support for priority groups, including those with a learning or physical disability or mental health issues, through a number of mechanisms, both internally and through key partner organisations.
13. Being in work can have a strong positive influence on health, protecting against social exclusion through providing an income, social interaction, a core role, identity and purpose. With appropriate support, securing work is particularly important for individuals with a health condition or disability, not only because it promotes full participation in society and independence, but also because it can promote recovery and rehabilitation, and lead to improved health outcomes and a better quality of life.
14. The transfer of CEF to CFM gives an opportunity to extend the supported employment scheme to other areas within CFM and increase the number of employment opportunities available.

Conditions of transfer

15. The entire CEF budget for both food production and distribution will transfer to CFM (Place department) on 1st June 2020.
16. The operation of the hot meal delivery service will remain unchanged at the point of transfer as it is recognised that it provides a valuable function that supports a large number of vulnerable adults who might otherwise need a more significant social care intervention.

17. Supported employment will continue in its current form and consideration will be given to opportunities to expand the supported employment offer across the wider CFM group after the transfer.
18. The Team Manager for CEF will transfer to Place department and report into the Group Manager for CFM.
19. All of the 37.54 FTE CEF employees at the Worksop production unit and the 20.79 FTE at the Rainworth distribution hub will transfer to the Place department alongside the Team Manager.

Other Options Considered

20. County Enterprise Foods remains part of Adult Social Care & Health department and does not transfer to Place department.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

21. The transfer of CEF from Adult Social Care & Health department to Place department is proposed for the following reasons:
 - To take advantage of synergies across the two departments
 - To take advantage of the collective commercial catering experience
 - To increase the number of opportunities for supported employment.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

23. The operational budget, for both production and distribution, will move across from Adult Social Care & Health department to Place department at the point of transfer. Although this will be moving into an area that is a traded service, it will continue to be treated as a Local Authority budget.

Human Resources Implications

24. The transfer will involve 59.33 FTE transferring from the Adult Social Care & Health department to the Place department. As this is an internal transfer there will be no change in terms and conditions, only the reporting lines of senior staff members.

Implications for Service Users

25. There should not be any implications for service users as CEF will transfer to Place department with no changes to the service.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee approves the proposed transfer of County Enterprise Foods from the Adult Social Care & Health department to Catering & Facilities Management in the Place department.

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Constitutional Comments (EP 20/02/20)

26. The recommendation falls within the remit of Policy Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (KAS 06/03/20)

27. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 24 of the report. The entire annual 2020/21 budget for CEF along with any costs/income incurred between 1st April and 31st May will transfer to the Place department on 1st June.

HR Comments (FW 26/02/20)

28. The transfer of staff from the Adult Social Care & Health department to the Place department is for senior line management reporting processes only. There are no other staffing implications arising from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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.

Equality Impact Assessment.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All