

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****IMPLEMENTING THE LOCALISM POLICY****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report is to consider a Plan for the implementation of the Council's Localism Policy and key actions.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Council's Strategic Plan for 2010-14 has a specific objective to embrace Localism as part of the priority to foster aspiration, independence and personal responsibility.
3. The County Council is also committed to ensuring that:
  - local people can make decisions about their lives and where they live
  - communities are involved in the way services are shaped and delivered
  - communities can be proud of their local area and residents can help to keep their local areas clean, tidy and safe
4. The Council's Localism Policy was agreed by County Council on 26 January 2012 to progress these commitments and to prepare for new statutory requirements arising from The Localism Act 2011.
5. County Council required an Implementation Plan to be developed and delivered to ensure achievement of the principles and commitments set out in the Policy. This approach is also consistent with the Policy Framework requirement that Council policies to be supported by a plan for implementation.

**Localism Policy – Implementation Plan**

6. Localism is about encouraging individuals to contribute to their local communities and empowering communities so that they can achieve their ambitions for the place where they live. The County Council has been working towards this agenda for some time and a summary of achievements was reported to Members in September 2011.
7. The County Council agreed a Localism Policy on 26 January 2012 to coordinate the County Council's efforts to embrace Localism, to secure further achievements of the

Strategic Plan objectives and to prepare for new statutory requirements arising from The Localism Act 2011

8. The Policy sets out that the commitment to Localism will be achieved:
  - through **open, responsive and accountable public services** – sharing information and data so that the public can understand the services that they receive and influence decisions about them - so that they better reflect communities' needs.
  - by **enabling and empowering individuals** – making it easier for individuals to contribute to services and to get things done in their community.
  - by **enabling and empowering communities** – working with parish/town councils and other representative groups to improve the quality and responsiveness of local services, which are accessible, accountable, sustainable, provide value for money and benefit the community.
9. The Policy sets out a number of key actions to deliver each of these commitments, including delivering an Implementation Plan to ensure that the principles and commitments set out in the Policy are achieved.
10. A draft Implementation Plan is outlined at Appendix 1. The Plan provides a coherent overview of activities across a number of separate work streams to implement the Localism Policy and sets out the key activities to ensure that the commitments set out in the Policy are achieved.
11. The Plan includes a brief summary of the status of activity to date along with future planned work. It is proposed that further progress on the implementation of Localism be reported to the Policy Committee.
12. The development of the policy and the implementation plan have been informed by engagement with Members of the County Council, parish/town councils, the voluntary and community sector and others. Further engagement will be required to implement the Plan.

### **Other Options Considered**

13. Comments made by stake holders have been considered as part of the development of the Plan.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

14. The Council's Refreshed Strategic Plan for 2010-14 has a specific action to embrace Localism. Both the County Council's Localism Policy and the Policy Framework set out in the Constitution have a specific requirement to develop a plan for the implementation of Council policies.
15. The adoption of an Implementation Plan provides a coherent approach for the authority to meet the principles, commitments and actions set out in the Localism Policy.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. 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**

- 1) It is recommended that Policy Committee approve the implementation plan for the Council's Localism Policy.

**Councillor Martin Suthers OBE**  
**Deputy Leader of the Council**

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## **Constitutional Comments (SG 15/05/2012)**

17. The Committee is the appropriate body to decide the issues set out in this Report.

## **Financial Comments (MA 14/5/12)**

18. Any costs associated with the implementation plan will need to be contained within existing budget resources.

## **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.

Nottinghamshire County Council Localism Policy  
The Localism Act 2011  
Feedback from parish and town council seminars

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All