

<b>For:</b> (x) <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Executive</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>CLMT</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <b>Meeting Date:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2012 <b>Report of:</b> Head of Community Living <b>Report author:</b> Michael McMahon	Executive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CLMT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Agenda Item Number: 10A</b>
Executive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
CLMT	<input type="checkbox"/>				

<b>Subject:</b> Community Development Service Review  (For Executive Only) <b>Lead Executive Member(s):</b> Cllr. Roden <b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Consultations:</b> Councillors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scrutiny <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/>	(x) X <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
--	---	--

<b>Recommendations</b> 1. That Executive approves the commencement of staff, stakeholder and public consultation on the proposals contained in this report and authorises the commencement of a dialogue with potential partner organisations ( <i>please note that this is a request to consult only, not a request to implement</i> ).
<b>Background</b> 2. The provision of community development services is not a statutory duty and due to budget pressures many local authorities have already scaled back on this service and/or transferred responsibility in whole or in part to the voluntary sector.  3. As part of the Budget Prioritisation exercise Councillors have expressed their willingness to consider service alternatives that would see the service maintained in its present form but on a new financially sustainable footing, which would have a reduced direct cost to the Council.  4. Any changes would be subject to comprehensive consultation with all relevant parties and stakeholders.
<b>The current position</b> 5. The Community Development Service currently operate out of 12 Community Centres, with an average yearly footfall of more than 395,000, which vary in terms of size, scope of service, partnership delivery arrangements and programmes on offer, and act as hubs to provide essential access to services, support for community groups and networks, emergency centre back up and a platform for promoting and enabling community development and cohesion  6. The Community Development Service also provides leadership and co-ordination of the Neighbourhood Governance Programme, the Council's corporate and partnership community involvement and empowerment programme centered on greater community involvement in influencing decisions and agreeing local priorities, support for the community leadership role of councillors, development of community led projects at neighbourhood level, and management /co-ordination of area work programmes to address agreed priorities,  7. It also manages the delivery of the Council's Volunteering Scheme, providing skills development / job opportunities for local people and a range of other community based projects.  8. In budgetary terms the costs of the services is £3.05m, of which approximately £1.26m being the costs of operating the 12 centres

<b>Goals and Objectives</b>	
9.	To maintain the service largely in its current form, but to explore alternatives forms of managing and funding.
<b>Proposal (for consultation)</b>	
10.	To transfer the management and operation of the 12 community centres, to a suitable local third sector partner organisation.
11.	Front line and operational management staff would transfer under TUPE arrangements and the terms of a funding management agreement focussed on centre service provision and community development outcomes. The balance of the community development management roles and responsibilities would be rationalised to reflect the move from an in-house provided service to an external commissioned service, as well as maintaining the leadership on Neighbourhood Governance and Participatory Budgeting, Volunteering Scheme, and supporting other community based capacity building projects this would be subject to a separate consultation process in accordance with the Organisational Change Procedure-in total 63 members of staff are potentially affected.
12.	The funding options for the Community Centres would be constructed in such a way as to enable them to take maximum benefit from donations from London Luton Airport Ltd and other local and national sources of independent financial support, thus ultimately reducing the direct financial burden on the Council.
<b>Key Risks</b>	
13.	Any transfer brings the possibility of a decline in the quality of the service provided, this would be addressed by the inclusion of a detailed service specification in any funding and management agreement, along with regular performance monitoring.
14.	The management of Community Centres via the third sector is a well established model, which many Local Authorities have already successfully adopted and the learning from this can be applied to ensure that any future transfer would be as smooth as possible for service users .
<b>Consultations</b>	
15.	A detailed consultation plan has been developed to engage with stakeholders, the public and staff. This consultation will be led by officers and subject to Executive Committee approval and following the “call-in” period will run from 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2012 until 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2013.
16.	Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, voluntary, local community groups and organisations and / or members of local authority staff can put forward an expression of interest to run local services. In the event of such an expression being made, the Council will need to consider any proposal under the terms of the legislation.
17.	Staff have already been made aware of the proposal to consult on an informal basis. If a decision is ultimately made to implement transfer all or any of the existing community centres to a new organisation, staff directly affected would be subject to a further consultation under TUPE legislation.
<b>Appendices attached:</b>	
Appendix A – IIA Community Development Service Transformation (Proposal 1) Appendix B - IIA Community Development Service Transformation (Proposal 2)	
<b>Background Papers:</b>	
None	

## IMPLICATIONS

### For Executive reports

- grey boxes must be completed
- all statements must be cleared by an appropriate officer

### For CLMT Reports

Clearance is not required

		<b>Clearance – agreed by:</b>
<b>Legal</b>	Save for the implications identified elsewhere in the report, there are no direct legal implications in the report	Brenda Vale 14/11/12/ Graham Cole – Solicitor, Legal Services – on 14.11.12
<b>Finance</b>	The budget savings potential has been evaluated in the report, reflecting current operating costs	CeriDavies 14/11/12 – no implications from approval to consult for Finance
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) – Key Points</b>		
<b>Equalities/ Cohesion/Inclusion (Social Justice)</b>	A full integrated impact assessment will be conducted once the consultation process has ended, however a draft has been completed and agreed with the Social Justice Unit	Agreed and attached
<b>Environment</b>	There are no material environmental implications.	n/a
<b>Health</b>		n/a
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		Rick Donnelley 16/11/12 – no implications from approval to consult for Fixed Assets
<b>Staffing</b>		Veronia .Charles 15/11
<b>Other</b>		

### **FOR EXECUTIVE ONLY - Options:**

- 1) Not to proceed with the consultation.
- 2) To proceed with the consultation subject to certain qualifications or conditions.