

## EXECUTIVE

**DATE:** 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009

**SUBJECT:** MARSH FARM NEW DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES  
DELIVERY PLAN 2009-10

**REPORT BY:** HEAD OF REGENERATION

**CONTACT OFFICER:** ABU NASIR 01582 547339

### IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	STAFFING	
EQUALITIES	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY	
FINANCIAL	✓	RISKS	✓

OTHER

### CONSULTATIONS:

COUNCILLORS CONSULTED	✓	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTED
STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED		OTHER

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**WARDS AFFECTED:** NORTHWELL

**LEAD EXECUTIVE MEMBER(S):** Cllr RJ Davis

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### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Executive is recommended to approve the Marsh Farm New Deal for Communities (NDC) Delivery Plan 2009-10 attached at Appendix A to the report.

### REPORT

- The NDC programme is an initiative developed by HM Treasury, Department for Communities and Local Government and the Social Exclusion Unit as part of the Government's national strategy for neighbourhood renewal. It is a community led regeneration programme which focuses resources on small

geographical areas to principally address the priority issues of multiple deprivation.

3. Following production of a Ten Year Delivery Plan (Marsh Farm New Deal Phase II Delivery Plan), the Marsh Farm area was awarded a total of £48.8m in 2001 over the ten year period. This allocation was increased to £50.6m in 2005-06 to cover future years irrecoverable Value Added Tax (VAT).
4. Each year Marsh Farm Community Development Trust produces an annual delivery plan. The 2009-10 Delivery Plan sets out:
  - Delivery arrangements
  - Key issues, progress to date, and next steps for
    - Employment & Business
    - Education
    - Crime
    - Health & Wellbeing
    - Environment & Housing
    - Capacity Building
    - NDC Legacy
  - Outcomes/key milestones
  - Project outputs
  - Project spend including match funding
5. The Delivery Plan provides a business plan setting out its aims for 2009-10 for use by the Government Office, partners and provides commitment to those projects that are to receive NDC funding.
6. Luton Borough Council is both a partner in the Marsh Farm NDC programme and acts as Accountable Body for the programme. In line with the revised Funding Agreement relating to the Council's Accountable Body role which was agreed by the Council and MFCDT in January 2007, Executive is required to approve the annual delivery plan for the NDC.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. Following agreement of the 2009/10 Delivery Plan by the Government Office, the Treasury will issue a Funding Agreement Letter to be agreed between the Treasury and the Council as Accountable Body for the NDC programme. There are no new legal implications in this report and this has been agreed with Brenda Vale in legal services on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8. The Delivery Plan has been agreed by Government Office, however there is still the possibility that the funding requirements and proposed expenditure for each year may change which will require agreement and variation of the funding agreement by DCLG.

9. There are no council projects in the current delivery plan which would require funding.
10. As Accountable Body, the Council is processing invoices and providing an element of funding in advance of payment by the Treasury. Agreed by the departmental Finance Manager on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

### **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

11. There are risks to the Delivery Plan should any projects not achieve their profiled spend and/or outputs. This risk is mitigated by processes embedded in the Marsh Farm Community Development Trust constitution, LBC & MFCDT Programme Management Notes and Accountable Body Agreement that require active monitoring, reporting to the appropriate committees (MFCDT's NDC Committee & Board, Government Office, DCLG) and action taken to remedy any significant variation. The Council's representatives sit on the NDC Committee, General Purposes Committee and Board.
12. The financial risk to the Council is mitigated by requirements of the Accountable Body Agreement which includes the requirement of the agreement by the Head of Corporate Finance of the annual spending profile in advance of the beginning of the year.
13. There is also a regular programme of monitoring being undertaken by staff in Regeneration Service. The NDC programme is also included as a risk on the Environment and Regeneration risk register and is kept under regular review.

### **EQUALITIES, INTEGRATION & COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

14. Marsh Farm New Deal for Communities Delivery plan and its outcomes are focused on reducing inequality and ensuring the area meets the aspirations of all sections of the community by enabling the most disadvantaged sections of the community to help reduce the inequality gap.
15. The programme is a diverse community led approach which focuses on delivering ambitious and innovative long term solutions to multiple deprivation. It promotes and encourages community cohesion and resident participation by supporting, empowering and ensuring a 'bottom' up approach to regeneration.
16. The projects within the delivery plan are required to make a positive contribution to socially excluded sections of the community including, vulnerable groups, BME, those with disabilities and empowers young people to participate in regeneration projects.
17. All projects provide comprehensive evidence to ensure positive impact on equalities, integration and cohesion.
18. The need to undertake Equalities Impact Assessments (EIA) will be considered as each project is developed.

Agreed by the department Equalities Co-ordinator on 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2009.

### **COUNCILLORS CONSULTATIONS**

19. Cllr RJ Davis was consulted on this report in his capacity as the Executive Portfolio holder for Regeneration and also as the Council's representative on the Marsh Farm Community Development Trust Board.

### **OPTIONS**

20. Executive has options to either:
- (a) Agree the Marsh Farm New Deal for Communities Delivery Plan 2009-10. This is the preferred option.
  - (b) Not agree the Marsh Farm New Deal for Communities Delivery Plan 2009-10. This would lead to significant reputation and financial risks to the Council and is not the preferred option.

### **APPENDIX**

Appendix A Marsh Farm Community Development Trust Delivery Plan Year 9 2009-11 and Financial Profile.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Marsh Farm New Deal Phase II Delivery Plan