

Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee – 15th November 2016

Briefing Report: South Staffordshire District Deal 2

Issue

Staffordshire County Council and South Staffordshires District Council have agreed a new (revised) District Deal.

The new Deal (DD2) will further strengthen the strong two-tier partnership working between the two councils. It is based on a recognition that many outcomes and initiatives, relating to both the economic growth agenda and building the community asset base, are best delivered at a local level.

It will also be used as a tool to formalise a local devolution deal consistent with Devo Staffordshire (the county approach) - to share and utilise appropriate and available resources to deliver on agreed priorities at a district, community and individual level.

The revised Deal is attached so that Members can see the outcomes and initiatives that it covers.

Background

As part of the public sector reform agenda, we need to continually review the way we work with key partners (District Councils) at a local level for the benefit of residents and business within a geographical area. District Deals are the way in which we agree with our partners the key priorities for both organisations at a local level.

Current Position

1. The first round of District Deals were approved in 2012/13 and formed an integral element of the County Council's City Deal submission. The original District Deals were somewhat ad hoc in format and detail, due in part by the pace at which they were agreed and the perceived priorities at that time.
2. The low cost, high impact projects detailed within the first District Deal had a mixed outcome because of the limited resource to support the ongoing delivery of such projects. However there were a number positive outcomes, including projects focused on those residents who were looking to return to the labour market or who required some up-skilling to ensure they were work ready as well as local growth deals such as Bericote (further information is provided in the attachment).



3. Whilst District Deals continue to reflect local requirements and priorities, this second round process for agreeing their detail and content has been more considered and the subject of wider consultation. Consequently, the deals now have a greater focus on the joint strategic priorities of both organisations.
4. Revised following meetings of the Leaders and Chief Executives of both Councils held in Spring 2016, the South Staffordshire DD2 reflects agreements made at those meetings and other key initiatives that are important to the economic prosperity of the District and developing the assets that support the health and wellbeing of its residents and businesses.

Key Considerations

5. The DD2 identifies specific projects and the County Council's commitment to work in partnership. In return, South Staffordshire Council commits to continued engagement in the business rates pool, enterprise zones, Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board.
6. This Deal also focuses upon the importance of enhancing two-tier working on targeted interventions that aim to shift dependence from traditional services to support from within resilient communities, through the development of increased community capacity.
7. This Deal also makes reference to Public Sector Reform and the desire of both authorities to further enhance working relationships through a range of enablers, including the emerging One Public Estate programme - where all public sector partners in Staffordshire collaborate to develop a more effective and efficient use of assets.

Comments and Next Steps

8. The communications teams for both authorities are developing the media plans for the launch of the new deal.
9. County Council Leadership Team and Cabinet and Scrutiny (as appropriate) will receive updates on key developments arising from the content of the Deal. South Staffordshire County Councillors will be kept informed of progress through their Local Member Priority meetings and involved individually in projects in their divisions.
10. Each particular element of the Deal will have its individual governance arrangements to manage performance against the priorities, plus update reports will also be produced for the South Staffordshire Partnership Board.



Conclusion

In conclusion, the new District Deal is set out very differently to the first deal that was agreed in January 2013. This Deal very much focuses on broader outcomes that drive specific projects and continues to strengthen two tier working, in particular through a commitment to change the culture around how we work together going forward. This Deal also addresses wider public sector reform by engaging partners in broader change programmes, including the One Public Estate programme

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Background Papers

Appendix A - South Staffs District Deal 2

