

Report for Resolution

Report to Executive
28 July 2010

Report of Director of Transformation

Subject Merger of Norwich 21 and Norwich Carbon Reduction
Trust : revised funding arrangements

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Purpose

To note the merger of Norwich 21 and Norwich Carbon Reduction Trust (NCRT), and to agree the transfer of grant funding for 2010/11 from Norwich 21 to the new organisation.

Recommendations

Executive is asked to:

- Note the merger of Norwich 21 and Norwich Carbon Reduction Trust
- Agree that the grant funding allocated to Norwich 21 for 2010/11 should be transferred with immediate effect to Norwich Carbon Reduction Trust.

Financial Consequences

There are no additional financial consequences arising from this report.

Risk Assessment

Officers have worked closely with Norwich 21 and NCRT to support and monitor the merger process. A new Service Level Agreement has been agreed with NCRT, and performance against this will be closely monitored throughout the year.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority to create opportunities for all.

Executive Member: Councillor Morphew - Leader of the Council

Ward: All

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

None

Report

Norwich 21

1. Norwich 21 is a non-profitmaking organisation which promotes sustainability in Norwich. It was initially set up by Norwich City Council in 1996 in response to Agenda 21, which is an international "charter" for sustainable development which has been signed by over 150 governments around the world, including the UK. Norwich 21 delivers activities which promote a sustainable economy, community and environment for the city of Norwich and beyond, now and for future generations.
2. Since 2000, Norwich 21 has been established as an independent organisation and it has undertaken the following work:
 - running projects to promote aspects of sustainability in the city
 - writing environmental strategies for the city in collaboration with a wide range of agencies and overseen their implementation
3. Since 2000 Norwich City Council has provided an annual grant to Norwich 21 to support their work. Norwich 21 has used this grant to employ a part-time officer to carry out community based initiatives. The officer is seconded back to Norwich City Council, and in practice works very closely with the City Council's in-house Environmental Strategy Team. This ensures a strong link between internal environmental work and community based environmental activity, and has been a very successful relationship.

Norwich Carbon Reduction Trust

4. The Norwich Carbon Reduction Trust (NCRT) is a newer organisation, and works *"in and around Norwich to help ensure that current generations help build communities that are environmentally sustainable so that we can make a difference to people lives today and leave a positive lasting legacy for future generations"* (extract from NCRT website).
5. NCRT aims to achieve this by preserving, conserving and protecting the environment and promoting the prudent use of natural resources. It seeks to promote sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration and to offer people the opportunity to learn more about sustainability. NCRT runs campaigns, offers practical help and seeks to support local innovative work which will help people or communities reduce their carbon footprint.

Merger of Norwich 21 and NCRT

6. Norwich 21 and NCRT clearly work on similar agendas, and have several common members. Both organisations have therefore been actively engaged in merger discussions in order to make best use of their resources and expertise, and develop a single organisation to drive environmental sustainability across the city.
7. It is proposed that the new merged organisation will work on broadly the same issues as before, and that the member of the Norwich 21 staff will transfer

under TUPE regulations to direct employment by NCRT.

8. The merger was agreed by a joint meeting of the Norwich 21 and NCRT Boards on 24 June 2010.

Proposed transfer of funding for 2010/11

9. Since 2000, the City Council has provided an annual grant to Norwich 21 to support their work. The agreed grant for 2010/11 is £18,844.
10. Now that Norwich 21 has merged with NCRT it is proposed that the Executive agree that the entirety of the funding for 2010/11 be transferred to NCRT.
11. It is proposed that the funding will continue to be used primarily to fund the part-time co-ordinator post, which has been transferred across from Norwich 21. The working arrangement will be subject to a Service Level Agreement, and will be regularly monitored and performance managed. This will ensure that the strong working relationship between the City Council's Environmental Strategy team and community based environmental activity will continue.

Future funding arrangements

12. It is proposed that funding for NCRT in 2011/12 and future years should be reviewed as part of the City Council's normal annual budgetary processes.