

Meeting: COUNCIL

Portfolio Area: Resources

Agenda Item:

16

Date: 17 JULY 2013

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR SHARED SERVICES

Author – Alison Hill, extn 2556

Contributor – Henry Lewis, extn 2496

Lead Officer – Scott Crudgington, extn 2185

Contact Officer – Scott Crudgington, extn 2185

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To seek approval for delegated service functions relating to shared ICT, Business Improvement, Print and Design services with East Herts Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That subject to the decisions to be taken by the Executives of both this Council and East Herts Council on 23 July regarding the creation of a shared service, Council confirm and approve that arrangements are made for East Herts Council's ICT, Business Improvement, Print and Design service functions to be provided through Stevenage Borough Council.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Both Stevenage Borough Council and East Herts Council see benefits from sharing these services. Both Councils have successfully worked in partnership to deliver key services with other public sector organisations for a number of years.
- 3.2. On 31 October 2011 Executive approved a report on Shared Support Services which recommended that the detailed business case for sharing support services be developed. The business case has been developed with East Herts Council for sharing the following services:
 - Information, Communication and Technology
 - Business Improvement
 - Print and Design
- 3.3. The business case and proposals for the creation of a shared ICT, Business Improvement, Print and Design service with East Herts Council are the subject of a separate report to Executive 23 July 2013.
- 3.4. Both Stevenage Borough Council and East Herts Council see benefits from sharing these services. Both Councils have successfully worked in partnership to deliver key services with other public sector organisations for a number of years.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

- 4.1. The business case has been developed around three main objectives for the services, namely, delivering efficiencies, strengthening resilience and increasing capacity to support ongoing service development.
- 4.2. Officers consider the business case to be persuasive and proposals will be brought to Executive 23 July 2013 for a decision on whether to share the services.
- 4.3. In summary the governance model for shared services is for:
 - Governance through an officer Partnership Board with the existing individual Council Member and Scrutiny arrangements retained
 - The services to be located in Stevenage while maintaining an onsite presence at both Councils with a single employer for all staff within the partnership, which is Stevenage Borough Council
- 4.4. Council Approval to the acceptance of any delegation from another authority, in this case the ICT, Business Improvement, Print and Design service from East Herts Council is a matter reserved to Council by the Constitution.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial, Staffing, Accommodation, Human Resource, Equalities and Service Delivery Implications

- 5.1.1. The business case for shared services has financial, accommodation and Human Resource, equalities and service delivery implications, these will be taking into account by Executive when considering whether to share the services. However, this decision on the delegation of authority does not have direct implications in these areas.

5.2. Legal Implications

- 5.2.1 None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report to Executive 23 July 2013 'Shared Service Business Case'

APPENDICES

None