

Cherwell District Council

Council

16 December 2013

<h3>Transformation Bid – Policy Framework and Section 113 Arrangements</h3>
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Report of Chief Executive

This report is public

Purpose of report

To add the principle of shared working with Stratford-on-Avon District Council to the policy framework and to approve entering into a Section 113 agreement with Stratford-on-Avon District Council and South Northamptonshire Council for the purposes of establishing a Joint Transformation team.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 That the principle of shared working with Stratford-on-Avon District Council and South Northamptonshire Council for the purpose of the establishment and working of the proposed Joint Transformation team be added to the adopted policy framework.
- 1.2 That the Council enters an agreement with Stratford-on-Avon District Council and South Northamptonshire Council pursuant to section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all other enabling powers so that employees can be placed at the disposal of the other Councils for the purpose of the establishment and workings of the proposed Joint Transformation team and that the Head of Law and Governance be authorised to complete such agreement in negotiation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services at Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Earlier this year, the Department of Communities and Local Government announced the creation of the Transformational Challenge fund and invited applications from councils and other public sector bodies to receive funding from the pot of £7m. The guidance issued at the time specifically referred to joint working and was encouraging new and innovative approaches to generating efficiencies. A report was presented to the 19 June 2013 meeting of the 3 Way Joint

Arrangements Steering Group which supported officers submitting bids to support the three way working between Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire Council. Urgency powers were used at Stratford-on-Avon District Council and at South Northamptonshire Council and Cherwell District Council approval was sought from the Cabinet (8 July 2013) and the Executive (1 July 2013) to progress the submissions. Six joint bids were submitted covering a range of activities including ICT, procurement and another to support the programme office costs of driving and managing the changes associated with extending shared services working across the three councils.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The councils were informed on 9 October 2013 that the latter submission had been one of 18 successful bids out of a total of 145 bids submitted nationwide. The councils have been awarded the full amount sought, £366,932. A formal offer letter has now been received..
- 3.2 A report was presented to the meeting of the 3 Way Joint Arrangements Steering Group on 16 October 2013 which set out the proposal for the next stage including resourcing and governance.
- 3.3 At their respective December Cabinet and Executive meetings all three councils formally accepted the bid, delegated agreement of the terms and conditions to the Chief Executives and appointed Cherwell District Council as the accountable body to enable the draw down of funds in pursuance of the objectives of the bid and in accordance with the terms and conditions.
- 3.4 In order to establish the transformation team referred to in the bid, it is necessary to add shared working between the three authorities to the policy framework. To establish the team a number of secondments will take place. While secondments are within the powers of the Heads of Paid Service (Chief Executives), in order to enable the team members to operate on behalf of the councils who are not their employer a Section 113 agreement is required (Section 113, Local Government Act 1972). This report enables this process to take place.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 Given the unique opportunity provided by the Transformation Challenge Award and the need to ensure that appropriate governance arrangements are in place, it is recommended that Council support the recommendations as set out in the report.

5.0 Consultation

3 Way Joint Arrangements
Steering Group
Chief Executives and
Monitoring Officers (CDC, SDC
and SNC)

This report has been prepared at the request of the 3 Way Joint Arrangements Steering Group Consultation responses received have been included in this report.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: To agree the recommendations. This option is perceived to be in the best interests of the Council.

Option 2: Not to agree the recommendations. This would not be in the interests of the council, will prohibit the realisation of the bid, achievement of savings and carries reputational risks for the council.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 All costs incurred in creating the transformation team will be met through the Transformation Challenge Award. It is envisaged that through collaborative working brought about by the team, there will be savings delivered in support services considered of around 10-20%

Comments checked by:

Tim Madden, Interim Head of Finance and Procurement, 0300 003 0106
tim.madden@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Legal Implications

- 7.2 The proposals set out in this report, provide appropriate arrangements to ensure the discharge of responsibilities in pursuance of the terms and conditions of the grant as set out by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The arrangements are also in accordance with Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the policy framework arrangements as set out in the Local Government Act 2000.

Comments checked by:

Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance, 0300 003 0107
Kevin.lane@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: **Not applicable**

Community Impact Threshold Met: **Not applicable**

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

An accessible Value for money Council: Explore further opportunities with partners to share or provide services, reducing costs and maximising income (Cherwell District Council)

Enhance performance: Deliver the Council's transformation programme (South Northamptonshire Council)

Great value for money (Stratford-on-Avon District Council)

Lead Councillors

Councillor Nicholas Turner (CDC), Councillor Ian McCord (SNC), Councillor Stephen Thirlwell (SDC).

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
	None
Background Papers	
None	
Report Author	James Doble
Contact Information	01295 221587 James.doble@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk