

Cherwell District Council

Council

15 December 2014

Joint Fraud Business Case

Report of Director of Resources

This report is public

Purpose of report

To inform Council of a decision taken under urgency powers by the Director of Resources.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the decision taking under urgency powers by the Director of Resources in consultation with the chairman of the council to include the consideration of the Joint Fraud Service Business Case on the policy framework.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 For the Executive to consider and approve the non-staffing aspects of the Joint Fraud Service Business Case that has been developed across South Northamptonshire, Cherwell District and Stratford on Avon district councils on the 01 December it needed to be added to the adopted policy framework.
- 2.2 As the full council meeting is after the Executive meeting where it needed to be considered a decision had to be taken under urgency powers in order for the revised structure to be implemented ahead of the transfer of staff to the DWP which is currently planned for February 2015 for South Northamptonshire and Cherwell District Councils.
- 2.3 Taking this approach enables staff affected by the transfer to the DWP to apply for a job in the retained fraud structure ahead of the transfer thereby maximising the options they have to consider. This approach is taken in order to provide maximum protection to staff affected by the Government plans.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 A business case for a three way shared fraud team was considered by the Joint Arrangements Steering Group on 24 November 2014. The business case was endorsed at that meeting for consideration by respective Executive and Cabinet meetings. However, the proposal was not on the policy framework and therefore Executive on the 01 December would have been unable to approve the business case.
- 3.2 In order to ensure that progress was not held up a decision was taken by the Director of Resources under urgency powers to add the consideration of the business case to the policy framework.
- 3.3 This decision was taken after consulting with the chairman of the council. A copy of the business case was also provided to the chairman of the council and after consideration of the business case he was content that it was appropriate that urgency powers were used in this instance.
- 3.4 The decision enabled the Executive to consider the business case on the 01 December where it was approved. The staffing aspects of the business case will also be considered by the Personnel Committee. The proposed implementation date is February 2015 and this date is important as it coincides with the planned transfer of fraud staff at both Councils to the national Single Fraud Investigation Service in that month.
- 3.5 It is a requirement of the constitution to report the taking of decisions of this kind to full council meeting and this report ensures that requirement is met.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that council note the adding of consideration of the joint fraud service to the policy framework was a decision taken under urgent powers by the Director of Resources in consultation with the chairman of the council.

5.0 Consultation

Cllr Alastair Milne Home

Supportive of the action taken by the Director of Resources.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

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

Option 1: None as this report is for information only, the urgent action decision having already been taken.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial or resource implications associated with noting the urgent action.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

- 7.2 As indicated in paragraph 3.5 this report is necessary pursuant to the Constitution to inform members of the taking of urgent action by the Director of Resources

Comments checked by:

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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

None directly

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Sound budgets and a customer focussed council

Lead Councillor

Cllr Ken Atack – Lead Member for Financial Management

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	None
Background Papers	
None	
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