

Agenda Item 4: Developing the approach to Joint Working and the Delivery of Local Authority Service Draft Business Case – Revised Recommendations

Recommendations as amended by South Northamptonshire Council Cabinet 08/12/14.

The highlighted text has been amended. The changes are points of clarification and do not have a material impact on the nature of the recommendation.

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 Following a review by the Transformation Joint Working Group and agreement by JASG, it is recommended that Executive endorse the attached business case for options to deliver three-way joint working for consideration by Council with the following recommendations.
- 1.2 Members are recommended, subject to South Northamptonshire and Stratford on Avon District Councils resolving in similar terms, to:
 - I. Agree an 'in principle' move towards scenarios 2 and/or 4 as set out in the appended business case and its supporting papers.
 - II. Agree that the appended business case is used as the basis for public, partner and stakeholder consultation and, subject to the outcome of that consultation not leading Members to a change of view, request that a full and final business case, taking account of the responses received to this consultation, is brought to the February 2015 Council meeting.
 - III. Agree in principle and subject to consideration of consultation responses to include all services within the potential scope of joint working (as set out in the appended business case scenarios 2 and 4, section 6), subject to prior approval of individual business cases on a service by service basis
 - IV. Agree in principle and subject to consideration of any consultation responses that any moves towards a confederated approach are undertaken on an incremental basis and that the first phase of services considered for inclusion are back office or support services.

- V. Request that additional tax and pensions advice is sought to ensure that any implementation costs associated with the confederation approach are fully quantified in any final business case.
- VI. Request that additional legal advice is sought to prepare governance arrangements for scenarios 2 and/or 4. This is to include arrangements such as a shareholders' agreement and exit strategy and also the necessary transitional requirements (e.g. steering groups, shadow boards or joint committees) to oversee the establishment of joint working and/or confederation approaches. These proposals should be included as an appendix to any final business case.
- VII. Request that a full organisational development strategy is developed for adoption to ensure that Members and employees have the requisite skills to operate within a shared service or confederation approach should the final business case be approved.