

Cherwell District Council

Council

19 October 2015

Transformation Governance

Report of Chief Executive

This report is public.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to request Council to discontinue the Joint Arrangements Steering Group and amend the membership of the Joint Commissioning Committee on the recommendation of the Joint Commissioning Committee. The report makes recommendations to ensure governance arrangements remain effective and transparent

1.0 Recommendations

Council is recommended by the Joint Commissioning Committee to:

- 1.1 Discontinue the Joint Arrangements Steering Group (JASG) and that the Head of Transformation be delegated to update HR policies and procedures as necessary
- 1.2 Increase the membership of the Joint Commissioning Committee from 4 to 6 members from each council and agree that the frequency of meetings is increased to bi-monthly diarised meetings to ensure effective Member oversight of the transformation programme.
- 1.3 Note that in accordance with the revised proportionality calculation the Leader of the Conservative group will advise on the nominations to the Joint Commissioning Committee from his political group.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Joint Commissioning Committee and Joint Councils Employee Engagement Committee were established in February 2015 to take effect at the start of the current municipal year to enhance the governance of the transformation programme. They sit alongside the existing informal member groups including Joint Arrangements Steering Group and Transformation Joint Working Group.
- 2.2 Since 2013 the Joint Arrangements Steering Group has met on a three way basis (CDC, SNC and SDC). This arrangement is on hold (since February 2015) pending

a decision from SDC regarding their participation in the confederation. Currently the only role Joint Arrangements Steering Group undertakes is as an informal reviewer of business cases for joint working (developed by Transformation Joint Working Group) prior to the formal employee consultation. With the creation of the Joint Commissioning Committee, which is able to carry out this role and hold both formal and informal discussions, the Joint Arrangements Steering Group would now appear to be unnecessary and a duplication of effort.

2.3 The Joint Commissioning Committee was originally intended to have a membership of 12, which is believed to be the optimum size for transacting efficient and effective business whilst ensuring the involvement of as many councillors as possible. The Committee was originally intended to contain members from CDC, SNC and SDC, however as SDC did not take a decision regarding their participation in the confederation, they did not agree to establish or appoint to this committee; consequently it became a two-way committee of 8. Therefore the Joint Commissioning Committee is recommending that their membership be increased to 12 with 6 councillors each from CDC and SNC appointed on a proportional basis, as set out below. Additionally officers have been advised that the Leader of the Conservative group wishes to amend the existing nominations from his group on this committee.

	TOTAL	CON	LAB
Joint Commissioning Committee	6	5	1

2.4 Since the creation of the Joint Councils Employee Engagement Committee, there have been problems of quoracy from the staff side Trade Union representatives. Additionally the councils are keen to ensure that as they progress on their transformation journey they engage with the whole workforce and not just trade union members. The Joint Consultative Committee has agreed to consult on proposals to address these issues and following consultation and negotiation with the trade union and workforce proposals will be brought forward to the Joint Consultative Committee and Council for decision.

3.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The new governance arrangements for the transformation programme have been reviewed following their first cycle. A number of issues have been identified and this report makes recommendations to address these issues.

4.0 Consultation

Transformation Joint Working Group
Joint Commissioning Committee

Endorsed report
Endorsed report

5.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

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

Option 1: Reject the recommendations in this report and continue with current arrangements. This is not recommended in the interest of efficient and effective governance.

Option 2: Request that officers prepare alternative governance arrangements. This is not recommended as the proposed recommendations are believed to be in the interest of efficient and effective governance.

6.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

7.2 Any changes to employee engagement processes will need to comply with the Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 2004.

Comments checked by:

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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All strategic priorities (transformation programme)

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	None
Background Papers	
None	
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