

Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire Councils

Joint Commissioning Committee

16 November 2015

<p>Joint Public Protection Service – Draft Business Case</p>

Report of Director of Community and Environment

This report is public;
Appendix A is exempt from publication by virtue of paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972.

Purpose of report

This report presents the draft business case for a Joint Public Protection Service across Cherwell District and South Northamptonshire Councils (hereafter Cherwell or CDC and South Northamptonshire or SNC respectively).

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To consider the attached draft business case (exempt appendix A) and endorse the business case for consultation with staff and trade unions.
- 1.2 To note that the financial case will be finalised once the job evaluation process has been completed. Costs are not expected to be higher than those included in the draft business case, but may be lower. The job evaluation process is expected to be completed ahead of the JCC meeting on the 16 November and a verbal update will be presented on the day highlighting any changes.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Following the adoption of a business case for Joint Working by CDC and SNC in February 2015 and the commitment to deliver the business case objectives as soon as practicable, the three way transformation programme was reshaped to meet the needs of SNC and CDC pending a decision from Stratford-on-Avon regarding their participation after the local elections in 2015.
- 2.2 Following the decision of CDC and SNC Councils in February 2015 to approve the final business case for developing the approach to joint working and the delivery of

local authority services, all services at both Councils are now included on the policy framework for the consideration of shared working.

- 2.3 This is one of a number of business cases for a two way shared service across CDC and SNC to be considered following the adoption of the business case in February 2015 and is part of the on-going Transformation Programme across the two Councils.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The draft business case builds on the existing interim arrangements to propose a focused, resilient service that delivers the statutory requirements placed on both Councils
- 3.2 The commercial opportunities and aspirations for the service have been key influences in this proposal and in particular the role regulatory services have in developing better relationships between the authorities and the business in the districts.
- 3.3 Following legal advice that identified the need to establish “ethical walls” the proposed structure includes a separate Commercial and Business Support team.
- 3.5 The business case also looks to address the current reliance on external bodies for funding key elements of the service.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendation is to establish a Joint Public Protection Service between CDC and SNC.
- 4.2 The business case represents a significant step in the transformation programme across CDC and SNC. The proposed joint team would provide an improved and strengthened front line service for both Councils in how they deliver a range of their statutory services.

5.0 Consultation

The draft business case was considered by the Transformation Joint Working Group meeting on the 4 November 2015.

The group requested that a stronger statement was included in the business case that clearly sets out that harmonising the policies across both authorities will allow greater efficiencies through simplified processes, resulting in lower costs and that this approach also reduces risk to the authorities inherent in a joint team operating dual policies.

Should the business case be endorsed, a three week staff and Union consultation period would commence on the 20 November 2015 [Provisional subject to JCC approval].

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 Section 19 of the draft business case summarises the financial implications.
- 7.2 The savings are allocated between the councils based on service volumetrics, set out in Section 18.2 of the Business Case (exempt Appendix A).

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

- 7.3 As with all two way shared services this proposal, if implemented, will be covered by the section 113 agreement (as varied) entered into between the two Councils.
- 7.4 Following the decision of CDC and SNC Councils in February 2015 to approve the final business case for developing the approach to joint working and the delivery of local authority services, all services at both Councils are now included on the policy framework for the consideration of shared working. This means that the decision making process has been streamlined as the Cabinet/Executive will be able to approve draft business cases for two-way shared working without the prior need of a decision of full Council.
- 7.5 A decision making timetable is included in Section 22 of the draft business case although, as indicated, this is based on the new joint governance arrangements agreed at the February Council meetings.

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Risk Implications

- 7.7 Section 20 of the draft business case sets out the risk implications.

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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Cherwell - A district of opportunity.

South Northamptonshire - Secure a prosperous and sustainable future.

Lead Councillor

Cherwell – Councillor Tony Ilott, Lead Member for Public Protection

South Northamptonshire – Councillor Dermot Bambridge, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	A Joint Public Protection Service Business Case EXEMPT
Background Papers	
None	
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