

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE:

MINUTES

Date: Thursday 12th November 2015

Time: 2.00-3.50pm

Place: Suite 2, Stanton House Training and Conference Centre, Huntingdon
PE29 6XL

Present: Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC): Councillors Mac McGuire
(Chairman) and Peter Reeve

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC): Councillors Andre Gonzalez de
Savage, Bill Parker (Vice-Chairman) and Bob Scott.

Others in attendance:

Quentin Baker (LGSS Director of Law, Property and Governance), Matt Bowmer (LGSS Director of Finance), Ian Farrar (LGSS Director of IT Services), Sue Grace (Director of Customer Service and Transformation, Cambridgeshire County Council), John Kane (LGSS Managing Director), Christine Reed (Director of People, Transformation and Transactions), Daniel Snowdon (Democratic Services Officer) and Claire Townrow (LGSS Head of Service Assurance, Customers and Strategy)

Apologies: Councillors Paul Bullen and Councillor Ian Manning.

91/15 MINUTES – 10TH SEPTEMBER 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

92/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

93/15 LGSS 5 YEAR FINANCE BUDGET PLANNING UPDATE AND SAVINGS PROPOSALS.

The Joint Committee were presented with the 2015 Budget Planning update attached at appendix A to these minutes. Officers highlighted that there was little known about what the Local Government settlement would be following the Chancellor's Autumn

statement. Smaller government departments had reached agreement with the Treasury but the larger ones had yet to reach an agreement.

During discussion of the report Members:

- Questioned the level of Audit provision proposed in the presentation. Officers advised that the Audit Team was small and there was a risk that more time would be spent on compliance rather than adding value to the business.
- Confirmed with officers that there was some disparity between Local Authorities and their capital receipts and these were being harmonised between Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire.
- Questioned when the point would be reached where there was no further scope for further cuts. Officers confirmed that there was a need for greater risk assessment based on the budget proposals and there were only limited further cuts that could be made.
- Questioned whether the audit provision should be reduced to the statutory requirement now. Officers explained that there was a statutory element to most tasks the Audit Team completed and there was little left to cut.
- Queried whether there was an opportunity for income generation regarding OWD Team. Officers informed Members that not a huge amount of training was sold but there was a desire to grow and be flexible to meet the needs of customers.
- Queried whether the training and conference space in the Angel Street development was required. It was confirmed that the resources were available to be hired by outside organisations and would provide a revenue stream to the Council.
- Requested that a link to the LGSS corporate training website be circulated to Members.
- Noted the concerns of officers regarding the security of Microsoft Office 365 and that Microsoft were to build a data centre in the UK that would address the security issues.

It was resolved:

- a) to note the LGSS 5 Year Finance Budget Planning Update and Savings Proposals

94/15 LGSS MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Joint Committee received the monthly budget monitoring report and noted the update provided regarding the objection to the accounts that had been received from a member of the public. Officers informed Members that the work on the objection was drawing to a close and the external auditor KPMG was close to writing a formal

response to the objector. Once the objector had been written to, KPMG then would liaise with the Audit Commission to confirm that their responsibilities had been discharged correctly and the objection would be closed. Officers did not anticipate any changes to the accounts and they would be approved by the LGSS Director of Finance and the Chairman of the Joint Committee as per the delegation agreed at the September meeting of the Joint Committee.

It was resolved to:

1. Note the financial monitoring position as at 30 September 2015.
2. Note the summary position on carry forward balances.

95/15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee resolved that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the Following 4 items of business on the grounds that it contained exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

96/15 MILTON KEYNES UPDATE

Members received a presentation attached at Appendix B to these minutes that provided an update regarding Milton Keynes Council joining LGSS and becoming a full Joint Committee member and third shareholder.

It was resolved to:

It was resolved to note and agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

97/15 NORWICH CONTRACT REVIEW.

The Joint Committee received the LGSS proposal for continued shared services between LGSS and Norwich City Council.

It was resolved:

To note the update provided to the Joint Committee.

Chairman