

REWIRING PUBLIC SERVICES

To: **General Purposes Committee**

Meeting Date: **6 January 2014**

From: **Director: Customer Service & Transformation**

Electoral division(s): **all**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To update the General Purposes Committee on progress in implementing the Council Motion from 14 October 2014, to find new ways of delivering public services, and consider the most appropriate use of resource to do achieve this.**

Recommendation: **That the General Purposes Committee agrees the use of some funding, already allocated for ‘rewiring public services’, towards increased capacity to respond to the 14 October 2014 Council Motion**

<i>Officer contact:</i>	
Name:	Sue Grace
Post:	Director: Customer Service & Transformation
Email:	Sue.grace@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 699248

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At Full Council on 14 October 2014 Councillors laid down a clear and unanimous mandate for the organisation to investigate options for how we address the unprecedented financial challenges facing the public sector in Cambridgeshire, ruling nothing out. The (amended) motion was unanimously supported at Full Council, and called on the Chief Executive to:
- Investigate the merits and potential of outcome and place-based budgets which encourage and enable efficient cross-service delivery;
 - Investigate the possibilities for and appetite of partner organisations to collaborate more closely and potentially to pool budgets;
 - Identify and investigate possible alternative future governance arrangements which could radically improve the way we fund and deliver services for the benefit of Cambridgeshire residents including, but not limited to, unitary status.
- 1.2 In the relatively short time since then, there has been a considerable amount of activity. Service Committees have been developing options for bold changes to service delivery in coming years, to deliver efficiencies and meet the needs of the communities the Council serves. The Council is also leading local discussions with Government on the potential for devolution, and the 'rewiring public services' initiative is bringing forward specific projects to work more effectively with our partners.
- 1.3 However, it is already becoming apparent that there is a lack of specific capacity to be able to adequately match the ambition demonstrated by the Council motion, and the pace set by recent developments. This runs the risk that opportunities may be missed and the work is not carried out in the most co-ordinated and targeted way to find the best solutions. In discussion with Group Leaders an opportunity to address this on a short-term basis has been identified.
- 1.4 As part of the closure of the financial accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014 the Council established a provision to the sum of £1m with the express intent that this should be utilised for upfront funding that would be required to support the 'rewiring of public services' in Cambridgeshire. The work being carried out to deliver the objectives of this motion fits firmly within the parameters for establishing this fund. It was agreed that any draw on this resource would be subject to a report to the General Purposes Committee (GPC) on its utilisation. To date, although work has continued on this programme, no drawdown has been made against the provision.

2. USE OF FUNDING

- 2.1 In order to respond to the motion and make full use of the opportunity that exists now, it is proposed that we draw down some of this 'rewiring public services' provision. It is proposed that £92,000 is used to support a fixed term and specialist role and a modest project budget in order to develop detailed proposals for consideration; this will include c. £82,000 (c. £41,000 over two years) for a specialist support post, and £10,000 to enable research, events and materials to be commissioned if necessary. This should be seen as an

‘invest to save’ project. The detailed proposals that will be produced will identify potential opportunities and could reshape the future of public services, saving the public purse millions in Cambridgeshire. Without this investment it is difficult to see how the Council will create the capacity and co-ordination necessary to develop such proposals, and fully meet the ambition of the motion, as well as the efficiency and monetary savings envisioned by the Council.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 This recommendation relates to the Council’s ability to deliver against all corporate priorities, responding to the mandate laid out by Councillors to explore a vast range of options for public service delivery.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

This report highlights to the Committee that a lack of targeted resource in this area could have implications for the Council’s ability to make future savings.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There are no significant implications.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

The additional capacity recommended in this report would be focussed on helping the Council to identify ways in which public service can be improved, and therefore how the Council is able to meet the diverse needs of communities.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

There are no significant implications.

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications.

4.6 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications.

Source Documents	Location
Minutes of Full Council Meeting 14 October 2014	http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=926