

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE:

MINUTES

Date: 26 March 2015

Time: 10.00am – 11.45am

Place: Glebe Lounge, Grafham Water, Perry, Huntingdon PE28 0GW

Present: Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC): Councillors, Paul Bullen, and Roger Hickford.

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC): Councillors Graham Lawman (Chairman), Andre Gonzalez de Savage and Bob Scott

Others in attendance:

Quentin Baker (LGSS Director of Law, Property and Governance), Rosemary Pallot (Strategic Finance Manager), Ian Farrar (LGSS Director of IT Services), John Kane (LGSS Managing Director), Mark Lloyd (Chief Executive Cambridgeshire County Council, Christine Reed (LGSS Director of People, Transformation and Transactions), Dee Loryman (Business Planning Manager), Daniel Snowdon (Democratic Services Officer, CCC)

Apologies: Councillors Bill Parker (Councillor Andre Gonzalez de Savage substituting) and Mac McGuire (Councillor Roger Hickford substituting); Paul Blantern, Matt Bowmer (Rosemary Pallot substituting), Claire Townrow (Dee Loryman substituting).

50/15 ELECTION OF A PRESIDING CHAIR

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman it was resolved for Councillor Graham Lawman to preside as Chairman for the meeting.

51/15 MINUTES – 24 FEBRUARY 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

53/15 LGSS 2014-15 – BUDGET MONITORING

The LGSS Budget Monitoring report was presented to the Joint Committee. It was highlighted that the financial position was broadly similar to the update provided to the last meeting of the Joint Committee on 24 February. Attention was drawn to the proposed use of the forecast reserves on page 2 of the report.

During discussion of the report Members:

- Why a further £252k was required. It was explained that the original trading prediction was not likely to be achieved as it was found that a third County Council was unlikely to join LGSS and therefore the trading pattern had moved away from what was envisaged in the original business plan.
- Questioned whether the additional reserves would be put to best use for the tax payer during that time. It was confirmed that the reserves would remain in the bank accounts of the two Local Authorities and would follow the respective investment processes.
- Queried why the Next Generation Working programme was not funded through the capital programme. Officers explained that the funding was for training and not equipment. Equipment would be funded through each Local Authority's capital programme.
- Questioned the level of savings that were projected to be achieved through Next Generation working. Officers explained that the savings would be realised through the buildings rationalisation programme. The example of the closure of Castle Court in Cambridge was provided where the Next Generation Working programme was necessary to mitigate the effects of the lack of office space.
- Queried the priorities for the funding and questioned whether it would be more effective to fund one of the initiatives fully based on priority. Officers reminded Members that the sums contained in the report were not new and that they had been presented and discussed at workshops previous to the meeting. It was emphasised that this was not new money and prevented the need to ask both Local Authorities for additional money.
- Requested a report be presented to the Joint Committee providing information regarding the apprenticeship scheme.

It was resolved to:

- 1) Note the financial monitoring position as at 31 January 2015
- 2) Agree use of 2014-15 surplus and unallocated balance on the Reserve Account as set out on page 2
- 3) Agree carry forward of unused earmarked balances from 2013-14 into 2015-16 as set out in Appendix 3.

54/15 STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

The revised LGSS Five Year Business Plan was presented to the Joint Committee following the comments received by Members. The revisions were highlighted to Members and following discussion:

- Members commented that the Business Plan provided a great opportunity for LGSS to reflect on the good work that had taken place and demonstrated how the collaboration between the two Local Authorities had delivered huge benefits.
- Members questioned whether LGSS Law was mentioned enough in the Business Plan and whether the proposed model for Revenues and Benefits governance model should have been mentioned to attract more business. It was explained that each area of LGSS was developing service improvement strategies and it was highlighted that organisations were less concerned about governance arrangements for area such as I.T. and Legal Services, although the model adopted by LGSS Law allowed for Partners to become shareholders that provided them a sense of ownership.

It was resolved to adopt the Five Year Business Plan.

55/15 UPDATE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Managing Director provided an oral update to the Joint Committee that emphasised the need for LGSS to remain true to its ethos but needed to be creative in how that was delivered. Over the course of the next 18 months the Terms and Conditions of employees would be looked at in order to ensure that the correct operating model was in place.

The Joint Committee was informed that an agreement had been reached with the Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) to provide I.T. services on their behalf and that the significance of the move into the Health Sector should not be underestimated.

Following the update Members commented that they would require a lot of persuading for LGSS to becoming a Limited Company as it would be a major transformation. Officers explained that operating two sets of Terms and Conditions has been challenging and it was right to constantly question whether the right governance structure and operating model was in place and whether it was sustainable.

56/15 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)).

57/15 REVENUES AND BENEFITS UPDATE

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

Chairman