

## **LGSS JOINT COMMITTEE: MINUTES**

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Time:** 2.00 – 2.35pm

**Place:** Meeting held remotely in accordance with The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020

**Present:** Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC): Councillors Terry Rogers, Chris Boden and Sebastian Kindersley

Milton Keynes Council (MKC): Councillors Robin Bradburn and Robert Middleton

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC): Councillors Lizzie Bowen, Malcolm Longley and Bob Scott

### **Others in attendance:**

Mark Ashton (Interim Managing Director, LGSS), Justine Hartley (LGSS Head of Business Planning and Finance), Chris Malyon (Section 151 Officer CCC), Barry Scarr (Section 151 Officer NCC) and Daniel Snowdon (Democratic Services Officer)

### **115/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies were received from Councillor Peter Geary.

There were no declarations of interest.

### **116/20 MINUTES – 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**LGSS BUSINESS TRANSITION PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

Members received the LGSS Business Transition Programme Update Report. Members noted that it was the final report on the LGSS Transition Plan and the implementation of the agreed new operating model. Attention was drawn to the updated Transition Plan that was appended to the report in which all work streams were reported as either amber or green. The positive collaboration of the LGSS partners in ensuring that no one was left behind in terms of capacity or skills was highlighted to Members.

Members noted the staff consultation process through which 14 staff members had successfully redeployed together with the respective repatriations of services to partner council's.

The final draft agreement for the new Lead Authority Model had been agreed and would enable a number of services to proceed to the new model from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Attention was drawn to the proposed governance arrangements set out within the report and therefore this would be the final meeting of the LGSS Joint Committee.

During discussion of the report:

- The Chairman drew attention to the number of officers working on the transition programme that were directly affected by its impacts and thanked them for their work and professionalism during the process. The report was clear, concise and was particularly helpful with regard to the future governance arrangements.
- A Member, in drawing attention to the amber/red status of governance, questioned whether it was a lack of resource or another factor that was causing issues. The presenting officer explained the revised governance structure was complex and timescales were always challenging due to the establishment of new unitary authorities in Northamptonshire. The COVID-19 pandemic had placed additional unforeseen strain on capacity, however, officers were confident that the deadlines would be achieved.
- Members congratulated officers on the work they had completed under difficult circumstances that were exacerbated by the pandemic.

It was resolved unanimously to:

1. Note the contents of the report and progress made to date
2. To note the cessation of the LGSS Joint Committee as of 26 November 2020 and the revised governance arrangements.

**118/20**

## **LGSS BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee considered the LGSS Budget Monitoring Update Report. The presenting officer explained that the format of the report was slightly different to previous iterations owing to the number of services that had been repatriated to partner authorities. The report therefore, was split between reporting the final position for those services which left LGSS at the end of September 2020 and repatriated to the partner councils, and the reported forecast position for those services still within LGSS at the current time.

The forecast underspend was highlighted to the Committee which represented a strong foundation for the transition to the new operating model.

A closing report would be compiled in January 2021 and would be circulated to Members.

The Chairman thanked Justine Hartley, LGSS Head of Business Planning and Finance for the reports she had presented over the course of the Joint Committee, in particular for the clear and concise way they were set out.

It was resolved unanimously to:

1. Note the financial monitoring position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 including the final LGSS position for services which repatriated on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

**119/20**

## **ERP UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee considered a report regarding the ERP system which had been requested following concerns expressed by Members at the August meeting of the LGSS Joint Committee relating to the number of high risk, business critical projects that were being worked on simultaneously.

Officers reported that the critical work-streams had successfully be achieved and paid tribute to the officers that had worked on the projects. The team was now able to focus on the establishment of the two new unitary authorities in Northamptonshire.

The presenting officer report a successful upgrade to CIVICA and the successful migration of Cambridgeshire County Council's banking to another provider.

Members expressed thanks and deep gratitude to the work of Mark Ashton, Interim LGSS Manging Director, Peter Borely-Cox, LGSS Programme Manager and his team for their hard work and achievements over the lifespan of LGSS. In particular the work in establishing the Children's Trust

in Northamptonshire was highlighted as there were particular challenges that were overcome.

The Interim Managing Director confirmed that the ERP Gold Interface and Integration Solution would be provided by Northamptonshire County Council as the lead authority.

It was resolved unanimously to:

1. Note the contents of the report

**Chairman**