

CHILTERN AND SOUTH BUCKS JOINT COMMITTEE

Meeting - 16 November 2015

Present: Mr Anthony and Mr Bagge

Apologies for absence: Mr Egleton and Mrs Sullivan

43. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 26 October 2015 were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

44. JOINT WORKING ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The Joint Committee received a report showing the scale and scope of the work undertaken by the joint working programme between Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council over the last year and what had been achieved so far. Members expressed thanks to all staff involved in taking the shared service projects forward. Largely the implementation of shared services had been a seamless process with many residents not seeing any negative impacts on the delivery of services.

The development of an in-house project management resource was welcomed. It was noted that the project management training programme for staff involved in future project work was being undertaken and that associated costs were equally apportioned to both Councils.

The report also set out the next phase of joint working which would be more complex and varied in order to achieve the changes the Councils were aiming for. This would involve creating a common culture across all staff based on customer focus and continuous improvement. The challenges associated with organisational culture change were recognised.

RESOLVED:

That the Joint Working Annual Report 2015 be noted.

45. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

“that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1974 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”

46. REVENUES & BENEFITS SHARED SERVICE BUSINESS CASE

The Joint Committee received a report and presentation setting out the results of a shared service review of the Revenues and Benefits Service. The report detailed the business case, the conclusion of which was based on the benefits and costs in terms of finances, resilience and quality of service.

RECOMMENDED:

- i) That the case for a shared Revenues and Benefits service is proven and that both Councils should proceed to establish a shared Revenues and Benefits service;
- ii) That staff in the respective Revenues and Benefits services be shared to work across the two local authority areas.

AND RESOLVED:

- iii) That the shared Revenues and Benefits service be implemented, as described in Sections 4 and 5 of the report.
- iv) That the cost sharing arrangements set out in the financial benefits section 6 of the report be agreed.
- v) That the high level implementation plan (Appendix 4) be agreed as the basis for reviewing progress in line with delegations and responsibilities decided for the implementation phase of the service review.
- vi) That the potential full year savings of the proposed shared service in 2016/17 of £127,194, 10.54% for Chiltern District Council, excluding one off costs to be met by earmarked reserves, be noted and taken into account in the authority's financial plan.
- vii) That the proposed shared service generates potential income for South Bucks District Council of £98,096 over two years.

The meeting terminated at 6.35 pm