

SUBJECT:	Shared Arrangements with Chiltern and Wycombe District Councils
REPORT OF:	Leader of the Council

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To receive and consider recommendations from a Joint Cabinet meeting of South Bucks, Chiltern and Wycombe District Councils.
- 1.2 Accordingly to make recommendations to the Full Council on shared arrangements across the three southern Bucks districts.

2. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- 2.1 Delivery of value for money for council taxpayers and pursuit of efficiency in services is a key aim for the Council.

3. Discussion

- 3.1 The Leaders of the three southern Districts in Buckinghamshire have been discussing the possibilities for closer co-operation for some time and our discussions have led to the proposal considered by a Special Joint Cabinet meeting of the Cabinets from the three Councils, immediately preceding this meeting.

The report and appendices submitted to the Special Joint Cabinet meeting should be taken as the background report for this Cabinet meeting and I have not reproduced them again as they have been sent to every councillor.

- 3.2 The Special Joint Cabinet has been invited to recommend as follows :
 - (a) that the Statement of Intent be agreed,
 - (b) that the setting up of a Joint Member Working Group be agreed as soon as practicable after the May elections to oversee the development of a detailed Business Case and Inter Authority Agreement for all three Councils,
 - (c) that an initial budget be provided as necessary up to a total of £10,000 shared between the councils on the basis of population as set out in para 8.1 of this report, to undertake initial legal and HR work and provide any initial advice on the setting up of a single team.

4. Resources, Risk and Other Implications

- 4.1 For South Bucks our share of the proposed initial budget mentioned above would be £ 2084 and it is suggested that this can be taken from reserves.

The initial implications of the proposal as a whole are set out in the Outline Business Case and for the future the implications for South Bucks are likely to be profound but also impossible to quantify at this stage. More detail will have to be worked out when a more detailed Business Case is formulated and in addition, the new Councils elected from May will need to consider strategic direction and the swift appointment of the new Chief Executive.

It is assumed that the new Chief Executive and their shared management team will then wish to make recommendations to this Council on how they propose to take the shared arrangements forward. This will in turn impact on resources and other aspects of the Council's business.

On risk, the Business Case included in the Joint Cabinet agenda at Appendix 2 incorporates an early risk analysis but again this will need to be reviewed and extended to be more specific to SBDC once the legal arrangements are being firmed up and proposed.

6. Recommendation

6.1 Cabinet is asked to recommend the following to the Council :

- (a) that the Statement of Intent be agreed,
- (b) that the setting up of a Joint Member Working Group be agreed as soon as practicable after the May elections to oversee the development of a detailed Business Case and Inter Authority Agreement for all three Councils,
- (c) that an initial budget be provided as necessary up to a total of £10,000 shared between the councils on the basis of population as set out in para 8.1 of this report, to undertake initial legal and HR work and provide any initial advice on the setting up of a single team. This share for South Bucks will be £2084 to be met from reserves.

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Background Papers:	Joint Report of Leaders to Special Joint Cabinet on 23 rd March 2011 about Proposal for Shared Arrangements