

Membership

Councillors

Martin Wright (Chair)

Chris Barnfather

Joyce Bosnjak

Ged Clarke

- Brian Wombwell
- Liz Yates

● absent

Officers

Mick Burrows – Chief Executive

Jayne Francis-Ward – Assistant Chief Executive

Sara Allmond – Governance Officer

Martin Gately – Scrutiny Co-ordinator

1. Notes of informal meeting on 20 May 2011

The notes of the informal meeting held on 20 May 2011 were agreed.

2. Apologies for absence

None

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interests.

4. Revised Review Scope

Jayne Francis-Ward updated Members on the discussion had at the informal meeting regarding the issues around shared services and the need to define what the Group would be reviewing within this area.

It was agreed to keep a wide definition of shared services to allow greater review of the subject.

5. Existing areas of shared services – Nottinghamshire County Council: EM LawShare and East Midlands Property Alliance

Jayne Francis-Ward, Deputy Chief Executive, presented the report and advised Members that there was information within the agenda on two of the larger existing shared services; EM LawShare and East Midlands Property Alliance. Other services were sold to other authorities such as payroll to the Fire Service. The issue with sold services was that unless there was a fixed term contract only the additional capacity within the existing structure could be sold and most departments did not have an additional capacity.

EM LawShare brought together the legal services buying power of a number of authorities, as all authorities had to outsource some legal services. The authorities involved could seek advice from each other and also from a pool of five law firms contracted to the service. There was another way of providing legal services which was to have a regional legal service such as Lincolnshire had set up. All Councils except one in Lincolnshire had signed in to a single law service for the whole area. This service was also marketed to other bodies. It had been running for four years and the general view was that it was working well.

Mick Burrows advised Members that there were a number of shared services currently on going in many areas of the Council.

It was agreed to receive a report listing the current shared services by Nottinghamshire County Council.

6. Potential areas for shared services – Nottinghamshire County Council

Mick Burrows, Chief Executive, advised Members that the new Business Management System was expected to go live on 1st October and once this had been embedded and all issues resolved there would then be the opportunity to sell these services to other authorities.

Members were advised that in the current climate there was a desire by most authorities to share services. However, there was a reluctance to buy into other authorities services, as authorities preferred to set up their services and then sell them to other authorities. The problem with this was that there was only a limited pool of customers as not many authorities were willing to buy in services as they were unlikely to be exactly tailored to their needs.

In developing a shared service there were fundamental questions such as ensuring a good return on investment, where the service would be located and the ownership and governance of the shared service.

The Authority was already working with Nottingham City Council in 80 areas of joint work. There was currently work ongoing to build relations with the district and borough councils to enable more shared working as it was important to have a good relationship before shared working was undertaken.

Members felt that there was a need to progress shared services in the current climate and it was important to assess current services to learn from experience and best practice. There was also a need to develop relationships with the district and borough councils to enable the possibility of shared working.

It was agreed to invite a chief executive from a district council and a chief executive from a borough council to the next meeting to discuss the possibility of shared services.

7. Proposed dates of future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would be arranged to enable a chief executive from a borough council and a chief executive from a district council to attend.

The following meeting would receive a report listing the current shared services by Nottinghamshire County Council.

The meeting closed at 3.42pm.

CHAIR

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