

Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee

2nd October 2014

Joint Worcestershire Regulatory Services Scrutiny Task Group – Final Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor (at the time of investigation Councillor Taylor was the relevant Portfolio Holder)
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Councillor Taylor was interviewed as an expert witness during the review.
Relevant Head of Service for Overview & Scrutiny	Claire Felton – Head of Legal, Democratic & Equalities
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	No
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report details the findings of the Joint WRS Scrutiny Task Group, which was launched in September 2013 at the instigation of Wychavon District Council.
- 1.2 The investigation was facilitated by Bromsgrove District Council as the host authority for Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS).
- 1.3 All partner authorities were invited and agreed to participate in the joint review, full details of which are detailed in the body of the main report.
- 1.4 The group concluded their investigations in June 2014. The Chairman and Vice Chairman then proceeded to present the report for the consideration of every lead Overview and Scrutiny Committee at local authorities in the county. Minute extracts from each of these meetings are attached at Appendix 2 to this report.
- 1.5 The group has proposed 12 recommendations and acknowledges that recommendation 6, as detailed in Appendix 1, has already been acted on by the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee.
- 1.6 Recommendation 12, as detailed in the main report, has been agreed and requires action by partners' Overview and Scrutiny Committees. For this reason the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee is not expected to comment on this proposal.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Worcestershire Shared Service Joint Committee is asked to RESOLVE that recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 should be approved; and**

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- 2.2 to **RECOMMEND** to partner Executives/Cabinets that recommendations 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 should be approved.

3. KEY ISSUES

Key Issues Arising from the report

- 3.1 From the attendance record within the main report the Task Group wishes to highlight that there was limited attendance by representatives of Wyre Forest District Council.
- 3.2 It can also be noted from Wyre Forest District Council's minute extract that this was due to its Members believing that, from the Terms of reference for the review, only the Chairman and Vice Chairman of their Committee could be members of the Joint Scrutiny Task Group and that those Members had limited availability.
- 3.3 The Task Group wish to clarify that Wychavon District Council had in fact amended the membership requirements in the terms of reference in line with a request from Wyre Forest District Council prior to the start of the review. This was communicated to every partner authority and is clearly detailed in the terms of reference attached to the main report. These revised terms of reference were agreed by every partner authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in spring 2013.
- 3.4 The Task Group would also like to highlight that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Scrutiny Task Group presented the report to Wyre Forest District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd July 2014 when Members chose to defer a decision on this item until a later date. When they reconvened on 23rd July 2014, whilst they had offered to attend, the Chairman and Vice Chairman were not invited to the meeting and were therefore unable to respond to any concerns raised by Wyre Forest Members.

Financial Implications

- 3.5 There are a number of financial implications to the Task Group's recommendations which are all detailed in the report.

Legal Implications

- 3.6 There are a number of legal implications to the Task Group's recommendations which are detailed in the report.

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Service / Operational Implications

- 3.7 There are a number of service and operational implications as detailed in the main report.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.8 there are a number of implications for customers of WRS services, as detailed in the main report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Not applicable.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Joint WRS Scrutiny Task Group Report
Appendix 2 – Addendum of Minute Extracts from Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None for the purpose of this report.

7. KEY

None

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