

Joint Committee

Date: 18th February 2016

Report introducing Service Plan 2016/17

Recommendation

That Joint Committee agrees to ratify the WRS service plan for 2014/15

Report

The Joint Committee signs off on the service plan for WRS each year. The process helps to make members aware of what the service is proposing for the relevant financial year and provides a sign off that some central government bodies like to see in relation to service delivery plans e.g. the Food Standards Agency.

The plan follows very much the pattern of previous years and has an Executive Summary to pick up the main points. The service will continue to shape its work around the strategic priorities provided by the Better Regulation Delivery Office, as these provide a framework that allows WRS to have a golden thread back to the priorities of the partners and also to link to the requirements of the various national bodies that oversee our work.

A range of high level activities are identified within the plan so that members will be aware of the general focus of activity. Below this will sit a number of team plans that will be used to drive the actual business activities.

The plan has been devised in the face of on-going financial pressure for all partners and the departure of the County Council from the partnership. The Trading Standards and Animal Health team is mentioned as they will still be part of the service on 1st April 2016 however the focus of this service plan is on the district functions that will continue to be delivered under the auspices of the new partnership.

A separate plan has been devised to cover the Trading Standards and Animal Health functions that will be agreed with Management Board representatives from the County Council as part of the County Council's exit process.

The structure provided at Appendix A reflects what has been initiated to deliver savings and account for the County Council's exit.

The plan highlights income generation as the key route for maintaining resilience for the service in the face of continuing austerity measures. The recently announced local government settlement should not impact on the delivery of services in 2016/17 as the budget has already been agreed however the following years are likely to remain difficult for partners.

Delivery for other local authorities is the key income generation strategy, supported by work for the private sector and specific grant monies. Looking forward, it is likely that other authorities or groups of authorities may come into the market creating a need for WRS to remain competitive and to retain its particular expertise to sell.

The performance indicators have been amended following some of the suggestions at the Management Board/ Joint Committee Away day. Once the plan is agreed, any steps necessary can be taken to ensure data can be collected when the new plan commences on 1st April.

Financial Implications

The budget provided in the plan document reflects the one agreed by Joint Committee at its November meeting.

Sustainability

NA

Contact Points

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Background Papers

Service Plan 2016/17
WRS Risk Register

