

JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

This section sets out the joint arrangements the Council has entered into with other local authorities, and is divided into the following parts:-

- Joint Committees
- Shared Services with Redditch Borough Council
- Other arrangements

1. Joint Committees

a. Worcestershire Regulatory Joint Committee

A joint committee has been established of the executives of this Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Redditch Borough Council, Worcester City Council, Wychavon District Council, and Wyre Forest District Council.

The joint committee has provision to operate and manage Worcestershire Regulatory Services. The Council has delegated to the Joint Committee the functions set out in Table 1 below.

The Council has delegated to the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Service the discharge of functions set out in the Officers Scheme of Delegation for Regulatory Services.

b. Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) – Joint Scrutiny Committee

The Council appoints one member to a Joint Scrutiny Committee which reviews and/or scrutinises decisions made by the GBSLEP Supervisory Board. The Joint Committee is administered by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

2. Shared Services with Redditch Borough Council

In 2009 the Council agreed to the appointment of a shared Chief Executive with Redditch Borough Council. In 2010 a shared management team for both Councils was appointed. The two councils have agreed to work together to deliver services jointly across both Councils. The co-operation between the two Councils on sharing services is reflected by a legal agreement referred to as the Overarching Framework Agreement.

As each Council continues to be independent politically, the Scheme of Delegations for Bromsgrove District Council, delegates the responsibility for making decisions from the Bromsgrove Executive and Council to the relevant Committees and officers. Under the terms of the Overarching Framework Agreement, the officers may be employed by either BDC or RBC, but this does not affect their ability to carry out functions delegated to them under the BDC Constitution.

The specific legislation which underpins these arrangements is set out in the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000.

Under section 113 of the Local Government Act 2000, a local authority may enter into an agreement with another local authority for the placing at the disposal of the latter authority the services of staff employed by the former authority. Under section 101 of the Local Government Act 2000 a local authority may arrange for the discharge of its functions by any other local authority. This principle is further expanded in sections 19 and 20 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2000.

The staffing arrangements for the shared management team have been established under section 113 of the Local Government Act with each authority placing its employees at the disposal of the other. As shared services are introduced across the Council department by department, a host authority for each department will be identified. Staff will be transferred under TUPE to the host or receiving authority, and will carry out the functions of the delegating authority in accordance with section 101 of the Local Government Act.

3. Other arrangements

The Council has agreed to enter into other arrangements for sharing services with local authorities. These are summarised below:-

a. Internal Audit Services

The Council has agreed to enter into arrangements with Malvern Hills District Council, Redditch Borough Council, Worcester City Council, and Wychavon District Council for the authorities to collaborate and provide one shared Internal Audit Service for all the authorities. The service is hosted by Worcester City Council and is regulated by a formal agreement.

b. Payroll Service

The Council has agreed to enter into arrangements with Redditch Borough Council for Redditch Borough Council to provide the payroll service for Bromsgrove District Council. The arrangement is regulated by a formal agreement.

c. North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration

The Council has agreed to enter into an arrangement with Redditch Borough Council and Wyre Forest District Council for the authorities to collaborate and provide one shared service for economic development and regeneration across the three authorities. For Bromsgrove the shared service is responsible for markets and promoting economic activity in the area and the regeneration of Bromsgrove Town Centre.

d. Building Control Shared Service

The Council has agreed to enter into an arrangement with Redditch Borough Council and Wyre Forest District Council for the authorities to collaborate and provide one shared service for building control services across the three authorities. The shared service is hosted by Bromsgrove District Council and is regulated by a formal agreement.

f. Land Drainage Shared Service

The Council has agreed to enter into an arrangement with Redditch Borough Council and Wyre Forest District Council for the authorities to collaborate and provide one shared service for land drainage service across the three authorities. The shared service is hosted by Wyre Forest District Council and is regulated by a formal agreement.

g. North Worcestershire Emergency Planning Shared Service

The Council has agreed to enter into an arrangement with Redditch Borough Council and Wyre Forest District Council for the authorities to collaborate and provide one shared service for emergency planning across the three authorities. The shared service is hosted by Wyre Forest District Council and is regulated by a formal agreement.