

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SHARED SERVICES BOARD

20TH APRIL 2010

OVERARCHING FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents members with an Overarching Strategic Alliance/Shared Services Framework Agreement for consideration. The agreement sets out the framework within which the strategic alliance between Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council will operate and the basis upon which it will be governed.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the agreement as attached at Appendix A and recommend to each respective Full Council that:

2.1.1 it be approved; and

2.1.2 the Leader of each Council be authorised to sign it on behalf of that authority.

- 2.2 Members are asked to consider the Shared Service Board Terms of Reference as Appendix B and to recommend to the respective Full Councils that the same are approved.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Shared Services Board on 8th September 2009 it was recommended to Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Full Councils that an overarching framework agreement be developed to further the strategic alliance between the two authorities and to enable officers from each authority to deliver services on behalf of the other. This recommendation was resolved at the respective Full Council meetings in September.
- 3.2 Accordingly the proposed framework agreement is now attached at Appendix A and members are asked to consider the same and recommended to the respective Full Councils for approval.

- 3.3 The Framework Agreement will enable both Councils to continue to work together and to enhance the already existing strategic alliance under the overall guidance and management of the shared Chief Executive. Under the terms of this agreement both Councils will work together to identify and establish joint working arrangements and a shared approach to the delivery of services that will improve the quality of people's lives in the two authorities and deliver greater value for money.
- 3.3 The framework agreement will supersede the existing Concordat that currently exists between the two Councils and create a formal contractual environment that manages the relationship moving forward and the principles that will underpin such things as the governance arrangements, staffing arrangements, costs and dispute resolution.
- 3.4 The Shared Services Board will continue to have a key role in the shared service arrangements albeit that this will continue on a non decision making basis. It is therefore proposed that as part of this framework agreement the revisions to the terms of reference of the Shared Services Board (as set out in Appendix 1 of the Agreement) be considered by members and recommended to the respective Councils for approval.
- 3.5 The parties may amend the terms of reference of the SSB from time to time as the Strategic Alliance develops. Any such amendment shall be agreed by each Council, taking into account any recommendation from the SSB.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs associated with the single management team are included in the budgets for both Councils. The framework has been developed internally with no additional cost.
- 4.2 Each Business Case prepared in respect of an existing or proposed Shared Service shall specify the allocation of cost in accordance with an appropriate mechanism of cost sharing which will be specific to each business case and as agreed by both Councils on a case-by-case basis and this arrangement has been formally recorded as part of the Framework Agreement.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The legal basis for the Strategic Alliance is Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. In relation to the staffing arrangements to support the alliance the legal basis is Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 which enables each authority to place staff at the disposal of the other.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 Each Council will need to ensure any proposals support its own Council Objectives.

7. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 The development of the overarching agreement meets the requirement of a formal control being in place for delivery of the shared services between the two Councils as detailed in the Corporate Risk registers.

8. **CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 No direct impact on the Customer arising from this report, although indirectly the intention of the shared service is to deliver efficiencies/savings and improve service quality to the ultimate benefit of the customer.

9. **EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None arising directly from this report.

10. **VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Value for Money and delivery of efficiencies forms a driving force behind these proposals.

11. **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The framework agreement acknowledges the requirements of section 113 of the Local Government Act 2000 that staff are consulted in relation to the proposals that any officer be placed at the disposal of the other authority.

12. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Procurement Issues None in relation to this report.
Personnel Implications As detailed in the HR implications
Governance/Performance Management As detailed in the Governance statements in the agreement
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 None
Policy None
Environmental None

13. **WARDS AFFECTED**

All

14. **APPENDICES**

Appendix A Draft Overarching Framework agreement to include Appendix 1 (SSB Terms of Reference)

15. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Shared Services Papers

Claire Felton
Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council