

STAFFORDSHIRE CONNECTS JOINT COMMITTEE

Friday 18th March 2011

**Linking Staffordshire Connects with the transformation initiatives of the
Staffordshire Leaders' and Chief Executives' Group**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To update the Committee on actions taken further to the recommendations in the report to the Committee in December under Agenda Item 4a in particular
- 1.2. To approve a supplier role for Staffordshire Connects in the Staffordshire One Place Project this is taking forward Workstream 2 of the Leaders and Chief Executives, namely Integrated Services for Customers.
- 1.3. To approve the proposals on governance mechanisms.
- 1.4. To approve the proposed role for the Strategic Advisory Board in managing an increased number of Work Plan projects as a result of engagement with projects approved by the County Chief Executives Group.
- 1.5. To approve the proposed role for Staffordshire Connects in facilitating the implementation of an information and communications platform for collaborative working.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Leaders' and Chief Executives' Group has identified eight project areas or workstreams with named Chief Executive and Leader sponsors. Progress was reviewed at meetings of the Group in October and November 2010 and more recently in February 2011. Staffordshire Connects and Staffordshire County Council have been designated as lead organisations for project area 3 (Customer Access).

4 DETAIL

- 4.1 **New role of the Strategic Advisory Board**
- 4.2 In January the Connects Director submitted a report to the Chief Executives Group who subsequently agreed a programme management role for Staffordshire Connects, focussing on project area 3 (Customer Access) and its linkages with project areas such as 2 (Integrated services for Customers) and 5 (Asset Mapping and Facilities Management)..
- 4.3 **Project 2 – Staffordshire One Place**
- 4.4 The Committee agreed in December that this project should take over elements of the Shared Services part of the Connects Work Plan for which £10,400 had originally been allocated for a temporary Project Manager (essentially looking at the potential for development of a shared service approach and the partner desire to follow it up. The Project Manager has been appointed by the Project using its RIEP funding, her work has commenced and the first meeting of the Project Board has been held. Connects is on this Board. The Project is concentrating on Development Control, Building Control, Environmental Health, Trading standards and Revenues and Benefits within the two tier part of the County.

4.5 Governance Mechanisms

- 4.6 The Connects Strategic Advisory Board, meeting as a Programme Board commenced monthly meetings in January.
- 4.7 The proposed amendments to the Staffordshire Connects Constitution, reflecting this change and the reporting-in relationship between the Programme Board and the Chief Executives' Group is dealt with in a separate agenda item
- 4.8 Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service have agreed to join the Programme Board in order to capture the wider public sector in the benefits of projects to be taken up in the Programme. Discussions about NHS involvement are ongoing. Their involvement can be incorporated under existing provisions in the Constitution for Supporters.
- 4.9 Please note that the Strategic Advisory Board will continue to meet quarterly with a local authority-only membership to undertake its established role of advising the Joint Committee.

4.10 Managing an increased number of Work Plan Projects

- 4.11 There are as yet no additional recommendations for projects to put into the Work Plan. However this is expected to change as a result of the first phase of Project 2 Staffordshire One Place, lasting six months, which should identify agreed areas of Shared Services work.
- 4.12 The creation of a Project Board for project 3 - Customer Access will act as the driver for work in this area.

4.13 An information and Communications Platform

- 4.14 Staffordshire County Council ICT has been approached to assist in building an appropriate web-base solution to assist multi-partner transformation working across the public sector in Staffordshire. This could link to the introduction of a new Content Management system for the County Council Website in the near future and the subsequent re-design of the Website, based on increased functionality.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The developments reported above represent 'work in progress' and areas still needing to be addressed are:
- 5.2 How to gain a better balance of resources for different project areas, especially for project 3 – Customer Access, which is significantly under-resourced, whereas other project areas are in receipt of sizeable RIEP funds.
- 5.3 In the immediate future, external resourcing of transformation projects will cease and more innovative ways of using internal resources must be found.
- 5.4 Dialogue between different parts of the public sector is still taking place through multiple channels, losing some of the benefits of a programme approach.

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