

STAFFORDSHIRE CONNECTS JOINT COMMITTEE

Friday 17th December 2010

Core Team Budget 2011/2012

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. To seek approval of the proposed 2011/12 Staffordshire Connects Core Team Budget.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That the 2011/12 partnership budget of £178,000 is approved, and its funding by partner contributions detailed at 4.2.

3. BUDGET REVIEW

3.1. The proposed Core budget for 2011/12 is £178,000 and a detailed breakdown can be seen at 4.1.

3.2. £200,000 of savings were achieved within the combined Core Team and CRM 2009-10 budget. The 2010-11 budget consolidated that position, fixing total budget at its 2009-10 level. The proposed budget for 2011/12 represents a further reduction of 10.1% of total expenditure.

3.3. Savings have been achieved in the following areas:

- Reduced travel and subsistence costs (£3,600);
- Reduction in audit fees-both internal and external (£12,200) arising principally from the requirement to produce audited final accounts having been removed.

4. 2011/12 PARTNERSHIP BUDGET

4.1. The 2011/12 proposed budget totals £178,000 and is summarised in the table below:

	2009/10 Core Outturn (£)	2010/11 Core Budget (restated) (£)	2011/12 Core Budget (£)
Staffing Costs	107,028	122,300	118,700
Accommodation	4,322	15,000	15,000
Legal Costs	8,390	10,000	10,000
Travel and Subsistence	3,318	10,000	6,400
Supplies and Services	26,852	40,700	27,900
TOTAL	149,910	198,000	178,000

- 4.2 Proposed contributions from partner authorities for the Core Team budget 2011/12 are shown in the table below. In 2010/11 partner contributions were frozen at their 2009/10 levels. In 2011/12, the savings achieved have been fully reflected in the suggested contributions.

	2011/12 Proposed Core Budget (£)	2010/11 Combined CRM & Core Budget (£)	2011/12 Proposed Combined CRM & Core Budget (£)	Saving (£)
Stoke on Trent City Council	17,800	119,170	116,410	2,760
Staffordshire County Council	17,800	116,090	113,030	3,060
Lichfield District Council	17,800	71,580	67,820	3,760
Tamworth Borough Council	17,800	71,580	67,820	3,760
Stafford Borough Council	17,800	71,580	67,820	3,760
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	17,800	71,580	67,820	3,760
Cannock Chase District Council	17,800	71,580	67,820	3,760
East Staffordshire Borough Council	17,800	71,580	67,820	3,760
Newcastle Borough Council	17,800	71,580	67,820	3,760
South Staffordshire District Council	17,800	71,580	67,820	3,760
TOTAL	178,000	807,900	772,000	35,900

5. RESERVES

- 5.1. Staffordshire Connects has a single reserve covering both its Core Team and CRM operations. As at 31st March 2010 the balance in that reserve totalled £254,260. Against this sum are approved project funding commitments totalling £86,700. The forecast balance of the reserve to 31st March 2012 is as follows.

Staffordshire Connects General Reserve	£	£
Opening Balance at 1 st April 2010		254,260
Committed Spend		
Approved Project Funding – Customer Knowledge	29,900	
Public Protection	10,000	
Shared Services	10,400	
Life Events	36,400	86,700
Uncommitted Balance		167,560
Forecast under spend 2010-11		
Core Team	16,130	
CRM	48,600	64,730
Forecast Balance at 31st March 2011 & 31st March 2012		232,290

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1. The proposed 2011/12 budget passes on to partners significant savings in their contributions reflecting the material and sustainable reductions achieved in the Core Team cost base.

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