

REVENUES AND BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP MEMBER TASK GROUP held in THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE, SAFFRON WALDEN at 6:00pm on 16th NOVEMBER 2009

Present: Cllrs R P Chambers, A J Ketteridge, E Hicks, A Dean, M Lemon

Officers in attendance: J Mitchell (Lead Officer), C Rockall (Interim Change Manager), A Webb (Director of Central Services)

Staff representatives (By invitation): Sue Ellis, Sue Mustill, Val Rogacs, Caroline Saych, Julian Sayer

RB05 **NOTES OF LAST MEETING** held on 26 October 2009 were approved as a correct record.

RB06 **STAFF REPRESENTATIVES**

On behalf of the Task Group, the Chairman welcomed the staff representatives, who had been invited to attend this meeting.

The Chief Executive stressed the importance of involving staff in issues relating to the proposed partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). The staff representatives indicated that that they were keen to explore the partnership arrangement. They acknowledged the need for resilience within the service, and that this could be provided by such the proposed partnership. They were looking for the partnership to provide a long term solution which would enable the service to develop and improve. They also expressed the hope that some aspects of the 'in house bid' could be incorporated into the partnership.

There were concerns about the likely impact on staff, particularly part-time workers, which would need to be taken into account.

The Task Group welcomed the comments, and **agreed** that the involvement of the staff representatives, as appropriate, in the development of the partnership should be encouraged.

RB07 **UPDATE**

Cllr. Ketteridge reported that, together with the Chief Executive, he had met the Leader and Chief Executive of SCDC. The meeting had been extremely positive and there was a desire on the part of both councils to progress the partnership.

The Director of Central Services and the Interim Change Manager had met their counterparts at SCDC with a view to formulating a provisional timetable of key events, including the arrangements for procuring the required external support for the change management process.

The next stage of the decision making process at SCDC involved a Portfolio Holder meeting on 18 November, when the meeting would consider would be

a recommendation to approve the outline business case as a basis for progressing the shared services project with Uttlesford.

A final decision would be taken at a full Council meeting of SCDC at the end of January 2010, but, subject to the outcome of the Portfolio Holder meeting, work would be started during December on the necessary procurement process, to avoid any unnecessary delays.

It was **agreed** that the position be noted.

RB08

BID TO IMPROVEMENT EAST

Agreed that the Task Group supports the proposal for a joint application to Improvement East for funding towards the implementation of the project from its Shared Services Fund.

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.