

2020 Vision for Joint Working

Shadow Programme Board Meeting – 20 June 2014

1. Present

Councillors: Mark Booty, John Burgess, Steve Jordan (chair), Patrick Molyneux, Brian Robinson, Jon Walklett

Officers: Andrew North, David Neudegg, Peter Hibberd, Ralph Young and Jane Griffiths

2. Programme definition

2.1 The draft document which had been circulated with the agenda was noted. It was a standard MSP template, and much of the information had been “cut and pasted” from the visioning document. It was agreed that everyone would feedback their comments so that the document could be discussed at the first formal meeting of the programme board which would be held once all councils have signed up to the visioning report.

2.2 The membership of the group was discussed and it was noted that the document would be updated to include CEX or equivalent from the four councils. It was agreed that the programme board will work by consensus. There was also a recognition that each council will need to consider what governance mechanisms it needs to engage with opposition councillors to ensure cross party support and also what role scrutiny will play in the process.

Action: All to feedback comments to Ralph Young

3. Presentation on outline programme plan and quick wins

3.1 DN outlined the work to date which included independent actuarial advice. The report had only just been received and so officers were still considering the detailed implications but it was noted that the actuary has endorsed the savings as outlined in the vision document. It was agreed that the report would be presented to the next meeting.

Action: JG next agenda

3.2 It was noted that Unison have recently written to the leaders and Amanda Attfield is currently drafting a response which will pick the inaccuracies with regards to existing employees rights.

Action: AA to produce suggested response and meeting with Union to be arranged

3.3 DN advised that there was a significant amount of work to be undertaken and that capacity will need to be found across the four organisations. Discussions have commenced with the programme managers from each of the councils.

3.4 The group noted the opportunity for quick wins and also the difficult issues with regards to how management arrangements can be secured to deliver the vision. It was agreed that the

members will require independent HR advice. AA will be asked to produce a brief which includes how such arrangements will facilitate the vision for independent councils with their own distinct cultures.

3.5 AN queried whether transitional management arrangements can be resolved until the structure and type of employment model is considered. He felt that there was merit in discussing the idea of mutual companies and also the concept of one or more delivery vehicles so that risk was spread rather than all services being vested in one organisation. It was agreed that the independent HR advisors will be able to advise on how best to approach the discussion on transitional management arrangements and company structures.

3.6 The shared public protection review was due to report back to respective councils in July, but there is merit for this to now be incorporated within the 2020 Vision work programme. It was agreed that a presentation should be made at the next meeting which set out the work to-date and also an opportunity to consider how this dovetails to the work being undertaken by CBC which is reviewing all of its regulatory services.

Action : JG next agenda

3.7 Members recognised the need to have shared systems and ICT platforms as soon as possible and an ICT infrastructure which will support business transformation. It was noted that the ICT managers have met and put forward a proposal which will be brought to the next meeting.

Action: JG next agenda

3.8 The programme board agreed that the following work should commence and the associated expenditure could be incurred from the existing transformation funding pot

- Initial External HR Support to develop Interim Management Proposal- £20k
- Backfilling to release ICT capacity - £50k
- Enhanced ICT network/video conferencing - £35k
- Backfilling to release finance support - £20k
- Funding for Public Protection Programme Manager - £40K (April-October)
- Development of UBICO Proposal - £20k
- Programme development - £20k

4. TCA Bid

4.1 DN outlined the discussion he had with an officer from the DCLG, and the fact that they do not understand the proposal that is being put forward. The model is not consistent with the DCLG view of a shared CEX. It was agreed that a bid should be submitted which clearly states the four councils position ie that they will be taking independent advice on shared management arrangements and making a decision later in the year. The s151 officers have been finalising the financial details and will need to formally sign off the bid next week.

Action: TCA bid to be finalised and submitted by the 1st July

5. AOB

- 5.1 MB felt that WODC would benefit from having another cabinet member on the group as their leader was unlikely to attend the meetings.

Action: DN to arrange

6. Future meeting dates

Agreed that meetings should be in morning (10 am start) and ideally in Cheltenham for ease of travel

4 July 2014

25 July 2014

29 August

26 September

31 October

28 November