

THREE RIVERS & WATFORD SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting – 18 March 2013

PART A

Title: FUTURE OF THE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE
Report of: David Gardner – Director of Resources & Corporate Governance –
Three Rivers D.C.

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides feedback from the two councils on proposals for the future of the Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the contents of the report are noted.

2.2 That the Committee indicates what additional information it wants in order to carry out the review required by the councils.

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Report approved by:

Bernard Clarke – Head of Strategic Finance – Watford B.C.

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

3.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is a report to Watford Borough Council on 30 January 2013, and to Three Rivers District Council on 26 February 2013, concerning the future of the Shared Services Joint Committee.

3.1.2 Watford B.C. agreed the recommendations resolving:-

1. that Shared Services Joint Committee undertakes a review of its successes and lessons learned to inform any proposed changes.

2. that Shared Services Joint Committee is dissolved from a date to be agreed once legal and financial processes are complete. This may be in 2013 or possibly from 1 April 2014 depending on the legal and administrative processes involved.

3. that each authority takes the responsibility for the service identified in paragraph (2) above from the effective date determined.

4. that a further report is made if necessary to each Full Council meeting once the timing is clear so that notice of the change is given to the Shared Services Joint Committee.

3.2 Three Rivers D.C. resolved:-

(a) that SSJC undertake a review of its successes and lessons learned to inform any proposed changes;

(b) that SSJC is dissolved from a date to be agreed once legal and financial processes are complete. This may be in 2013 or possibly from 1 April 2014 depending on the legal and administrative processes involved; but to ensure that the Resources Policy and Scrutiny Committee and Executive Committee are advised of details first.

(c) that a further report is made to each Full Council meeting once the timing is clear so that proper notice of the change is given to the SSJC.

3.3 Both councils agreed that further discussion should take place on ensuring political accountability of the new arrangements.

3.4 The next meeting of the Resources Policy and Scrutiny Committee at Three Rivers takes place on 13 June 2013 followed by an Executive Committee meeting on 24 June 2013. In view of this it is suggested that the Joint Committee undertakes its review of the successes and lessons learned at its next meeting on 3 June 2013.

3.5 Members will recall that at its meeting on 19 November 2012, officers presented a report entitled 'Shared Services Review', which looked at the achievements of the shared services against the criteria of resilience, savings and service improvement, and considered the lessons learned since implementation. The report is reproduced as Appendix 2. Members are asked to indicate what additional information they require in order to carry out the review required by the councils.

4. **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Policy**

4.1.1 The recommendations in this report are within the policies of the Joint Committee, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council.

4.2 **Financial**

4.2.1 There are no changes to the budget or the efficiency gains already agreed by the Joint Committee, Three Rivers District Council or Watford Borough Council as a result of this report.

4.3 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.3.1 See appendix 1 to this report.

4.4 **Risk Management and Health & Safety**

4.4.1 There are no risks associated with the decisions members are being asked to take.

4.5 **Equalities, Staffing, Accommodation, Community Safety, Sustainability & Environment, Communications & Website and Customer Services**

4.5.1 None specific at this stage.

Background Papers;

No papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Appendix 1 – Future of the Shared Services Joint Committee – Report to Watford Borough Council on 30 January 2013 and Three Rivers District Council on 26 February 2013.

Appendix 2 – Shared Services Review – Report to the Shared services Joint Committee on 19 November 2013.