COUNCIL

Wednesday, 18 November 2015

ANGLIA REVENUES PARTNERSHIP - JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (REP1310)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The Council joined the Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) in 2014, becoming one of the seven partner councils running a shared Revenues and Benefits service.

2. The governance of ARP is provided through a Joint Committee that currently comprises two Councillors from each of the seven authorities, with one Member being elected as Chairman each year. This governance structure was necessary when ARP was a partnership of just two councils. Having more recently expanded to seven councils the Joint Committee considers it more appropriate to now be comprised of one Councillor per partner.

Is the report Open or Exempt? | Open

Wards Affected: | All Wards in the District

Cabinet Members: | Councillor Barnard, Cabinet Member for Resources
| Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing

Supporting Officers: | Arthur Charvonia
| Strategic Director
| Homira Javadi
| Head of Finance
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ARP was originally formed from two councils only and as recently as April 2014, it was comprised of just four partner authorities. In order to function effectively, and to avoid any issues of being inquorate, the Joint Committee was made up of two Councillors from each of the partner authorities.

1.2 From 2014, three further councils, including Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) and Waveney District Council (WDC), joined the ARP, bringing the number of partners to seven. The Joint Committee currently therefore operates with 14 Councillors.

1.3 Following a review by the ARP Joint Committee, it resolved on 17 September 2015 to recommend to each authority that the size of the Joint Committee be reduced to one Councillor per member authority, with each councillor having one vote. In addition, it was resolved that each council should have up to two substitute Councillors, one of whom would be able to attend and participate at any Joint Committee meeting, but only vote when required to do so as a substitute.

2 SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL & WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

2.1 WDC and SCDC have been working in partnership since 2008, when both councils appointed a shared Chief Executive Officer. The partnership between the councils has evolved naturally since that time, introducing a shared Management Team in 2010, and adopting a single, joint Business Plan, now. The partnership has also included various aspects of sharing of roles at a political level. In particular, WDC has in the past been represented by a SCDC Councillor at the Suffolk Children’s Trust and is currently represented by Councillor Gallant on the Suffolk Health & Well-being Board.

2.2 The ARP has recognised that four of its seven partners also operate in pairs. These are the East Suffolk authorities, SCDC and WDC, and the West Suffolk authorities, St Edmundsbury and Forest-Heath. The Joint Committee has therefore agreed in principle that these ‘paired’ councils could be represented on the Joint Committee by a single Councillor with two votes. As relatively new partners to the ARP, and given the financial and operational importance of the ARP to both Councils, it is not being recommended at this stage that one Councillor represents both Districts at the ARP Joint Committee.

3 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It was agreed by the ARP Joint Committee at its meeting on 17 September 2015 that it should seek to have a single Councillor representing each Member authority, subject to the agreement of each Member council. In effect, this will create one vote per Council, simplifying the operation of the Joint Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Anglia Revenues Partnership Joint Committee be comprised of one Councillor and two substitutes per authority.

2. That at any meeting of the ARP Joint Committee, one such substitute from each council be able to attend and participate in the Joint Committee meeting, but not vote unless actually substituting for the principal representative.

3. That the Cabinet Member for Resources at Waveney District Council be appointed as the Member for Waveney District Council of the ARP Joint Committee.

4. That the Waveney District Council Cabinet Member for Housing and Cabinet Member without Portfolio be appointed as Waveney District Council’s substitute Members on the ARP Joint Committee.

5. That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal Services to approve any consequential amendments to the ARP Joint Committee Agreement as a result of recommendations 1 to 4 above.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPENDICES</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BACKGROUND PAPERS</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>