

Anglia Revenues Partnership

Joint Committee – 3 December 2009

ARP Value for Money Review

1. Purpose

To ask the Joint Committee to agree a value for money review of the Anglia Revenues Partnership.

2. Recommendation

That a collaborative value for money review of Anglia Revenues Partnership be undertaken by the end of January 2010 and reported to the next meeting of the Joint Committee after that.

3. Background

3.1 Forest Heath, Breckland and East Cambs councils have a long-standing commitment to deliver value for money services. Forest Heath is just completing a programme of value for money reviews covering all its services. Breckland Council is constantly investigating ways of maximising purchasing value. East Cambs has made gains significantly in excess of its targeted level of efficiency savings. In view of this, it would be timely to examine whether any value for money improvements can be made to the delivery of ARP's services.

3.2 ARP has a strong track record of improving performance. In 2003/04, new benefit claims took an average of 43 days to process for Forest Heath residents, 33 days for Breckland residents, and 29.3 days for East Cambs' residents. By 2007/08 (when East Cambs joined the partnership), ARP had improved these times to 14.7, 14.4, and 19 days respectively. In 2003/04, 97.1% of Forest Heath's due Council Tax was collected, 97.29% of Breckland's, and 97.64% of East Cambs'. By 2007/08, collection rates had increased significantly for all three councils. This excellent record of improving performance would be complemented by an evaluation of how well the partnership delivers value for money.

4. Objectives for the Value for Money Review

- 4.1. To establish how ARP compares with other councils in terms of indicators of cost and performance.
- 4.2 To establish whether there are any process efficiencies that could improve value for money.
- 4.3 To establish what levels of cost and performance are likely to be needed to help ARP develop and grow.

5. Conduct of the Review

5.1 The review will be a collaborative venture between Forest Heath, Breckland, & East Cambs. ARP staff will be involved as their knowledge and commitment will be vital to securing any value for money improvements.

6. Treatment of Value for Money Gains

- 6.1 If potential for any further savings is identified as a result of this review, further consideration will need to be given as to how partners will share any risks and rewards associated with them.

7. Timetable

- 7.1 It is planned to conclude the review by the end of January 2010 and to report the conclusions to the next meeting of the Joint Committee after that.