

## **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

### **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 17 DECEMBER 2009**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT**

**(Author: Mark Broughton, Scrutiny Officer in association with the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission)**

### **JOINT SCRUTINY OF THE ANGLIA REVENUES PARTNERSHIP**

#### **1. Summary**

1.1 This report asks Members to constitute a Task and Finish Group to provide joint scrutiny with Forest Heath District Council of the Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP).

#### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 To set up a joint ARP Task & Finish Group to enable joint scrutiny with Forest Heath DC adopting an agreed terms of reference.

2.2 The OSC nominates 3 members and 1 substitute, reflecting broad political balance, where possible, and appointed on the basis of their relevant knowledge and interest to sit on the Joint Task and Finish Group

2.3 The Joint T&F Group to meet on four occasions in Thetford between January and July 2010 and submit its findings in a final report, including recommendations to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission in September 2010.

Note: In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

#### **3. Information, Issues and Options**

##### **Background**

3.1 At its meeting on 23 July 2009 the Overview & Scrutiny Commission received a report advocating the establishment of joint scrutiny arrangements with Forest Heath DC in relation to the Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) [Minute 73/09 refers]. The Commission resolved that, subject to receiving formal agreement from Forest Heath DC that a joint scrutiny approach be adopted, a dedicated Panel with representatives from each council be set up and a meeting be held at least twice a year using a rota basis for venues.

3.2 The Scrutiny Committee of Forest Heath DC considered this resolution at its meeting on 3 September and concluded that whilst joint scrutiny would be a welcome development, initially a task and finish Group be set up to provide a preliminary assessment.

3.3 On 16 November 2009 the respective Chairmen of Breckland and Forest Heath's respective Scrutiny Committees supported by respective lead officers met to discuss arrangements for progressing the setting up a Joint Task and Finish Group to jointly scrutinise the Anglia Revenue Partnership.

3.4 It was agreed by both Chairmen that:

- The membership of the Joint Task and Finish Group should be made up of three members from each authority and one substitute member.
- The objectives of the review were to:

- a) consider the formation and drivers for setting up the Anglia Revenue Partnership and any lessons that could be learnt from the process;
- b) East Cambridgeshire District Council's involvement in the Anglia Revenue Partnership.
- c) The growth and development of the Anglia Revenue Partnership, including ARP Trading Limited, and ARP's forward development/business plans
- d) Governance and policy setting issues
- e) Performance reporting and scrutiny arrangements
- f) The work of the Joint Task and Finish Group to be conducted over four meetings.
- g) Meetings to be held in Thetford

3.5 The Commission is requested to approve the "terms of reference" for a Joint Task and Finish Group with Forest Heath District Council as follows:

"To set up a Joint Task and Finish Group with Forest Heath District Council to scrutinise the Anglia Revenue Partnership by reviewing:

- The formation and drivers for setting up the Anglia Revenue Partnership and lessons learnt from the process;
- East Cambridgeshire District Council's involvement in the Anglia Revenue Partnership.
- The growth and development of the Anglia Revenue Partnership, including ARP Trading Limited and their forward development/business plans
- Governance and policy setting issues
- Performance reporting and scrutiny arrangements"

3.6 These prospective arrangements are subject to a similar report to Forest Heath's Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 10 December 2009. The outcome will be reported verbally to Members at the OSC meeting on 17 December.

### 3.7 Options

3.7.1 To agree the recommendations

3.7.2 To not agree the recommendations

## **4. Reasons for Recommendations**

4.1 The Commission has previously given in-principle agreement to the establishment of a joint scrutiny approach to the ARP with our partners Forest Heath DC.

## **5. Risk and Financial Implications**

5.1 No significant risk or financial implications

## **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 None

## **7. Other Implications**

7.1 Equalities, S17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998, S40 Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006, Human Resources, Human Rights, Other: None

## **8. Alignment to Council Priorities**

8.1 Your Council Your Service

## **9. Ward/Community Affected**

9.1 All

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*Background Papers*

*Report to OSC on 23 July 2009*