



Forest Heath
District Council



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANGLIA REVENUES AND BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP (ARP)
JOINT COMMITTEE: 2ND OCTOBER 2011
REPORT OF THE OPERATIONAL BOARD
(Author: Sharon Jones)

UPDATE OF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD

Purpose of Report

To inform the Joint Committee (JC) of the inaugural meeting of the Officers Operational Improvement Board. The agreement between the three authorities requires that the Operational Board meets regularly and reports back to Joint Committee.

Recommendations

To note the content of this report.

1. Background

- 1.1. As part of the report to the Joint Committee held 10th June 2010 it was agreed that there should be an Officers Operational Improvement Board (OOB) held regularly and details reported to the subsequent JC
- 1.2. This report is to inform the JC of the issues raised and provide information resulting from the meeting held on the 12th November 2011.

2. Detail

- 2.1. This was the second meeting of the OOB.
- 2.2. It was agreed that the reports to be put to the next Joint Committee would be
 - 2.2.1. Report on Officers Operational Improvement Board
 - 2.2.2. An update and final financial case for expansion to include St Edmundsbury
 - 2.2.3. A report around telephony and capital requirements
 - 2.2.4. Update re Class 'p' exemptions
 - 2.2.5. Report to discuss the future arp strategy
 - 2.2.6. A report on the Welfare White Paper
 - 2.2.7. Verbal report on partnership opportunities.

- 2.3. It was recognised that an agreement had been made to councillors to give a guide to the various reliefs available through the Non Domestic Rates legislation. However as the proposed agenda for the 2nd December was long it was agreed that the guide would be brought to the following JC.
- 2.4. There was a discussion around the current position on the work being undertaken regarding Class 'p' exemptions and how that project was being undertaken.
- 2.5. There was a discussion around the audit of ARP with regard to the different approaches by different audit providers. It was hoped that the partnership would be audited by one set of internal auditors rather than two in the future and that this would be negotiated when the current Breckland contract is to be renewed.
- 2.6. It was agreed that a paper should be presented to JC about the, 'Universal Credit: welfare that works' white paper and how Government changes may affect the partner authorities, and their customers.
- 2.7. There was a discussion around the strategy options that are open for the partnership. This included the differences between franchising, grand partnerships etc, to enable the paper to be informed on options that would provide benefits for arp and for potential new partners.
- 2.8. It was to be considered whether it would be sensible to have Joint Committees more regular between January and the July – after St Edmundsbury's team move to Thetford. Otherwise it would be difficult for members to be fully aware of how the project was progressing.

3. KEY DECISION

- 3.1 This is not a key decision

Lead Contact Officer:

Name/Post Sharon Jones / Strategic Manager

Telephone: 01842 756463

Email: Sharon.Jones@angliarevenues.gov.uk

Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):