

ANGLIA REVENUES AND BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP
JOINT COMMITTEE: 28 FEBRUARY 2008
REPORT OF THE OPERATIONAL BOARD
(Authors: Kate Dann / Rod Urquhart)

REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE DWP HBSD/IAD RETURN

This report seeks approval from members of the Joint committee to release the funds awarded from the DWP to each member authority of the ARP to enable the implementation of the HBSD/IAD single scan.

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Each Local Authority is required to make quarterly returns of statistical data to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).
- 1.2 Additional statutory monthly returns of data are supplied for data matching purposes.
- 1.3 The DWP have recognised that the quality of data collected could be improved and are introducing a single monthly scan for Local Authorities commencing in April 2008, thereby replacing a number of other statutory returns.
- 1.4 The DWP have recognised that Local Authorities will incur additional costs from software suppliers who are rewriting significant parts of their systems to accommodate these changes, and in terms of data cleansing to ensure that the data supplied is as error free as possible.
- 1.5 The DWP have allocated funds to each Local Authority to help them with the additional costs.

2. KEY DECISION

- 2.1 This is not a key decision

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The partnering authorities have now received their funding allocations.
- 3.2 Some work has already been undertaken throughout the course of the current financial year to prepare for this change and as yet no charges have been made by the software supplier.
- 3.3 The software supplier has yet to advise of the charges in respect of the detailed enhancements supplied in the next release of software required to provide the new statutory return.
- 3.4 The funding is one-off and therefore does not cater for annual revenue costs. Any such costs would have to be met through ongoing Revenue budgets.
- 3.5 It is recommended that all the monies received in respect of this project are pooled together, through the partnership to get an advantageous procurement.
- 3.6 An update will be provided at a future Joint Committee detailing the costings of this project and progress made.

4. OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Release the allocated funding from all three Partners to enable this project to be commenced and completed.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To comply with the requirements of the DWP to implement the new scan.

6. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that members approve the release of the funds to enable payment of the relevant costs to be made and to meet the legislative framework as set by the DWP.