

Item GP 17/16 referred from General Purposes Committee minutes of 26 June 2017

GP 17/16 REVENUES AND BENEFITS - SHARED SERVICE

(LGA 1972 Sch 12A Paragraph 5 – Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings)

Further to Decision No D170030CAB, the report of the Management Team advised the Committee of progress with the implementation of the Shared Service for Revenues and Benefits. Details were given of the outcome of discussions of the Project Board, comprising key staff from both Tonbridge and Malling and Gravesham Borough Councils, regarding the hosting of the Service. Reference was also made to representations received from staff and Unison. This resulted in a recommendation that the Service should be located at Kings Hill with Tonbridge and Malling designated as the lead authority. Members were advised that, pending the formulation of the Legal Agreement between the two authorities, there was a working assumption that TUPE would apply for the service model proposed.

It was noted that the Finance, Innovation and Property Advisory Board had recently considered a report focusing on issues relating to IT and digital services.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the location of the Service at the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council offices at Kings Hill be agreed, noting that existing Gravesham Borough Council revenues and benefits staff will relocate to Kings Hill;
- (2) it be agreed that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) will become the lead authority and, subject to the written confirmation requested from Gravesham Borough Council (GBC), noted that it is GBC's intention to delegate the revenues and benefits function to TMBC which will become the service provider to GBC;
- (3) subject to final confirmation, it be acknowledged that TUPE will apply for the service model that is proposed;
- (4) it be noted that the Legal Agreement between TMBC and GBC for this service will be progressed over the coming months; and
- (5) thanks be recorded to all involved in the considerable amount of work in progressing the Shared Service during the time of dealing with the snap General Election.

***Referred to Council**