

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Rob Barlow, Interim Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service

To: Joint Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development Panel – 22 July 2021

Author: Nathan Elvery, Strategic Advisor

Subject South East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

Purpose: This report sets out the draft Business Case and the draft Memorandum of Agreement to support the role of the Joint PMP and PDP in making recommendations for consideration at the Council meeting on the 29 July 2021 in relation to South Holland DC entering the South East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

Recommendations:

That the Joint Performance Monitoring Panel and Policy Development Panel review the draft Business Case including the proposed integrated shared management structure for staff consultation (**Appendix A**), the draft Memorandum of Agreement (**Appendix B**) and the draft report for Council (**Appendix C**) and provide their findings and any recommendations resulting from the meeting for:

1. inclusion as an Appendix to the report to Council on 29 July 2021, to inform the debate and ensure the governing documents are satisfactory to allow members to progress with the proposed partnership.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On the 1 July 2021, the Council agreed, in principle, to enter into a new South East Lincolnshire strategic alliance with Boston Borough and East Lindsey District Councils
- 1.2 The new partnership is proposed to be called the 'South East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership'.
- 1.3 At the 1 July Council meeting the was the following recommendation was agreed:

That a Joint PDP/PMP Working Group be established to review the proposed report and associated documentation in advance of the business case decisions for the next Council decision.

- *The associated documentation to include the Business Case, Memorandum of Agreement and proposed structure for consultation.*
- *The Working Group to include the Chairman and Vice Chairman of PDP and PMP and the remaining members to be appointed from the membership of the above Panels and to reflect where possible the political balance of the Council.*

- *A series of topic briefings will be prepared by officers for the Working Group's considerations.*
- *The Joint PDP/PMP Working Group to provide a report and recommendations directly back to the Council on its findings as part of the next report to the Council.*
- *The final version of the report will be for the Chairman of PDP and the Chairman of PMP to agree following Member opportunity to provide feedback.*

1.4 The draft Business Case has been presented to an informal meeting of the Working Group on the 14 July 2021.

1.5 The draft Business Case has been presented to an all member briefing on the 19 July 2021.

1.6 This report brings forward the draft Business Case and draft Memorandum of Agreement for the purpose of scrutiny reflecting the comments from the informal Working Group. The draft Business Case is at **Appendix A** and the draft Memorandum of Agreement is at **Appendix B** to this covering report.

1.7 In reviewing these documents as part of the scrutiny process it provides the opportunity for members to provide feedback to shape these documents to a standard that will be acceptable to the Council and help to support an informed decision at the future Council meeting on the 29 July 2021.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The recommendations are put forward for the following reasons:-

- To ensure an informed decision is taken by Council.

3. EXPECTED BENEFITS

3.1 The expected benefits are set out in the draft Business Case.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Carbon Footprint/Environmental Issues

4.1.1 The proposed partnership will reduce the travel patterns in comparison with the previous partnership arrangements through the use of technology and therefore have a positive impact on the carbon footprint for all Councils.

4.2 Constitution & Legal

4.2.1 The proposed partnership will be governed constitutionally through a Memorandum of Agreement between the proposed alliance Councils as set out in draft at **Appendix B**.

4.2.2 Decisions relating to staffing matters, and in particular the terms and conditions of employment, are reserved to the Council by law and under our constitution.

4.2.3 Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a local authority to enter into an agreement with another local authority to place an officer of one at the disposal of the other for the purposes of discharging the latter's functions.

4.3 Contracts

4.3.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications associated with the recommendations contained in this report.

4.4 Corporate Priorities

4.4.1 The proposed partnership will benefit all corporate priorities for all Councils within the proposed partnership as set out in the draft Business Case at **Appendix A**. It will be important to prioritise these for the proposed partnership to ensure the full benefit of partnership working is able to impact on the outcomes for its local communities and places.

4.5 Crime and Disorder

4.5.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications associated with the recommendations contained in this report.

4.6 Data Protection

4.6.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications associated with the recommendations contained in this report.

4.7 Equality and Diversity / Human Rights

4.7.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications associated with the recommendations contained in this report.

4.8 Financial

4.8.1 The financial opportunity for South Holland District Council is contained within the Business Case at **Appendix A**.

4.9 Health and Wellbeing

4.9.1 As we commence the next steps towards the South East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership it will be critically important to ensure we continue to support our officers and ensure they are kept well informed, engaged and consulted throughout this phase. Our staff are our greatest asset and we need to ensure we take good care of them and their health & wellbeing at this critical time.

4.10 Reputation

4.10.1 A joint communications workstream will be established across the proposed partner councils to ensure that the proposed alliance is able to respond to and engage with both internal and external interests in a co-ordinated way reflecting the key early stages of partnership working.

4.11 Risk Management

4.11.1 Partnership working is in essence built on a basis of trust, good leadership and good communication. Throughout the last 4 months this has been demonstrated by all. The next steps are not without risk but with the partnership experience, wisdom and knowledge of SHDC these risks can be minimised.

4.11.2 A section is included in the draft Business Case at **Appendix A**.

4.12 Safeguarding

4.12.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications associated with the recommendations contained in this report.

4.13 Staffing

4.13.1 All senior managers (Tiers 1-3) have been informed of the proposed partnership direction and have seen an early draft of the proposed structure. All staff will be informed following the decision of the Council.

4.13.2 A series of regular staff engagement sessions will now be established to ensure we support our staff in the manner set out in paragraph 4.9.1.

4.13.3 The proposed partnership has a no redundancy policy.

4.14 Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales

4.14.1 An initial engagement meeting with the Unions has taken place and a regular set of meetings will be established covering the period from decision to implementation.

5. WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

5.1 All Wards directly or indirectly.

6. ACRONYMS

6.1 Not applicable.

Background papers:-

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Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix 1: Draft Business Case

Appendix 2: Draft Memorandum of Agreement

Appendix 3: Draft Council Report

