



CABINET

5.30pm to 6:05

11 January 2012

Present: Councillors Arthur (chair), Waters (vice chair), Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Gihawi and MacDonald

Also present: Councillors Stephenson and Wright

Apologies Councillor Westmacott

1. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item 2 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

*2. SUPPORT SERVICES REVIEW (PARA 3)

Councillor Waters, deputy leader and cabinet member for resources, introduced the report.

He thanked the members of the cross party working group that had been set up to consider and inform the support services review, and the scrutiny committee for its thorough scrutiny of the proposals and for the recommendations it made.

The Unison representative said Unison supported the principle of services being delivered by public sector employees and it would not be recommending opposition to the proposals to its members. However, as the full details had not been received until a few days earlier, and in view of concerns that TUPE staff transfer arrangements would be followed rather than Unison's preferred secondment route, it could not formally support the proposals either.

The Deputy chief executive officer said that employment and procurement law advice was that secondment was not advisable and was open to legal challenge. The timescale required agreement to move forward on the basis as recommended. However, she would be happy to further discuss the advice with Unison.

Councillor Arthur thanked officers for the excellent members briefings which had received good feedback from councillors of all political groups. She reiterated Councillor Water's comments on the valuable contributions of the cross party working group and scrutiny committee. She welcomed the proposals that would keep

jobs local to Norwich, create opportunities for the staff and ensure that the council was working with a public sector partner.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations of the overarching business case set out at Annex A of the report and to:

- 1) terminate the council's ICT contract and recommend to council that it agrees the necessary expenditure to fund the termination costs on a 'spend to save' basis.
- 2) delegate the function of providing the council's ICT and Finance services to Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of LGSS (local government shared services) through a shared service arrangement for a period of five years subject to the agreement of a partnership and delegation agreement.
- 3) delegate authority to the Deputy chief executive officer in liaison with the section 151 officer and resources portfolio holder to agree the final termination costs with the current ICT supplier and to agree and sign the partnership and delegation agreement.
- 4) Carry out further work with LGSS to develop the opportunities identified where further savings and improvements could be achieved through a second phase of work into a detailed phase 2 business case.
- 5) Hold further discussions with LGSS on the potential opportunities that have been identified for other services that could be included within the LGSS arrangement in the future as part of a phase 3 of work.
- 6) In the unlikely event that final agreement with LGSS is not achieved to proceed with the option assessed as second best within the overarching business case and to in-source the ICT service.
- 7) accept the following recommendations of scrutiny committee :-
 - a) to approve the recommendations
 - b) to continue to use the cross-party members working group as a reference group to discuss any phase two and phase three work;
 - c) to continue to engage members in discussion regarding their ICT requirements;
 - d) to ask the deputy chief executive officer present reports to scrutiny committee on the :-
 - i) phase three work in advance of its consideration by cabinet; and
 - ii) the partnership, following one year of operation;
 - e) to use quarterly performance reports to monitor:-
 - i) business continuity within the organisation during transition, and
 - ii) ongoing partnership performance

- f) subject to advice from the monitoring and section 151 officers as to the legality, to disclose the cost of termination of the existing contract at the point at which the final negotiations with our ICT provider are concluded.
- g) To inform council members of any changes to the partnership as and when they occur; and
- h) to note that the scrutiny committee welcomes working with a public sector partnership.

CHAIR