

**Comments from Scrutiny Commission and Audit and Standards Committee**

**Scrutiny Commission – 21 November 2022**

The following issues / comments / queries were discussed by the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the draft Memorandum of Agreement for the proposed Shared Partnership:

- a. The business case being circulated on Friday 18 November was a lot to read before the meeting on 21 November;
- b. Why is there a push to complete by 31st December 2022;
- c. Why there are benefits listed that do not fall within the Council's remit, for example employment, education;
- d. Clarity as to the utilisation of council assets across both Councils.
- e. What is the exit strategy from the partnership?
- f. Why will a shared Legal service will work now when it has not previously?
- g. Does Melton Mowbray have a leisure centre?
- h. When will the proposal go out to residents for consultation?
- i. Will further work be done by consultants?
- j. Will the Strategy Board and partnership governance continue post implementation?
- k. Will the Director of Communities post in HDC be deleted if the partnership is established?
- l. Why is Melton the best strategic fit?
- m. What does sovereignty mean?
- n. How backbench councillors and those with no specific responsibilities be kept informed and access senior officers?
- o. Have the two Council's corporate priorities been mapped?
- p. How will Design Principles 5 & 8 be disseminated to Members;
- q. What are the arrangements for risk management around the partnership both individually and as a partnership?
- r. How can a single Chief Executive manage two disparate councils if there are opposing views?
- s. How does the figure for the size of the combined partnership reflect the positions of other partnership councils?
- t. What is the political makeup of other councils entering into similar arrangements?
- u. Can we have more information on the current Chief Executive of Melton Borough Council?
- v. Please confirm that Harborough will not be investing in Melton.

- w. Can we have more detailed comparison of the staffing numbers between Harborough and Melton.
- x. Please update the salary figures in the business case to include on-costs;
- y. Please remove jargon from the business case;
- z. Confirmation of the governance of the partnership and the strategic board.
- aa. How will the Partnership cope with a Council changes its system of governance (i.e. to a committee or mayoral system from decision-making would work if the Council was to move to a different system of governance for example a committee system.
- bb. The proposals mean that it is even more important for the scrutiny function in HDC to be strengthened.
- cc. Please provide details of stakeholder feedback, when available;
- dd. Please update structure charts with comparator roles for top three tiers of each Council, including Harborough's Service Manager posts.

### **Audit and Standards Committee – 23 November 2022**

The following issues / comments / queries were discussed by the Audit and Standards Committee in relation to the draft Memorandum of Agreement for the proposed Shared Partnership :

- ee. the process which would be undertaken if a change of Leadership and Cabinet occurred and the process of termination;
- ff. the functions of the two deputy Chief Executives and their associated employment gradings;
- gg. the regularity of performance monitoring;
- hh. the financial impact if either Council withdrew from the Agreement;
- ii. the role of Internal Audit within the Agreement;
- jj. the recruitment and discipline of the post of Shared Chief Executive;
- kk. the quorum arrangements for the Shared Strategy Board;
- ll. the influence and responsibilities of the Shared Strategy Board as detailed in Schedule 3;
- mm. Partnership Governance arrangements in paragraphs 18 to 21 to the report given that the bodies detailed are advisory.
- nn. Access to minutes of the Shared Stakeholder Group and Shared Strategy Board;
- oo. the MoA should include details clearly stating the reporting structure mechanism as well as the frequency of reporting, with consideration given to additional reporting particularly during the first six months of operation.
- pp. the wording in Schedule 1, Shared Chief Officer Employment Panel should be changed to 'decisions on employment and discipline'.
- qq. details of the quorum for the Shared Strategy Board needed to be included;

- rr. would Melton Borough Council be responsible for the procurement of the Harborough District Leisure Services given that it was proposed that the Deputy Chief Executive at Melton would be responsible for Leisure Services?;
- ss. clarification on the meaning of thematic responsibilities;
- tt. clarification of Design Principles 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8;
- uu. the influence and responsibilities of the Shared Strategy Board as detailed in Schedule 3.