

Harborough District Council



Report to Council Meeting of 24 July 2023

Title:	Report on the activity of organisations with which the Council has Joint Arrangements
Status:	Public
Report Author:	Director of Law and Governance, Clare Pattinson c.pattinson@harborough.gov.uk
Lead Councillor:	Leader of the Council - Cllr Knowles
Appendices:	n/a

Summary

- i. Article 11 of the Council's constitution provides that either Council or Cabinet can enter into joint arrangements to promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area.
- ii. This report updates Council on the joint arrangements currently in place within the district in compliance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 2.11

Recommendations

1. That the Council note the joint arrangements activity since the last meeting.

Reasons for Recommendations

- iii. It is appropriate that the Council is aware of activities carried out by or on its behalf.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The Council is legally able to discharge its statutory and discretionary responsibilities via a number of routes. This includes entering into alternative service delivery vehicles such as companies and joint committees.
- 1.2. It is important that Council maintains oversight of such bodies. This report ensures that Members are aware of the joint arrangements utilised by the Council

2. Background

- 2.1. The Council has established a joint committee for the purpose of administering its revenues and benefits functions. The joint committee is hosted by North West Leicestershire and includes Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. It meets 4 times a year.
- 2.2. The Council also has a wholly owned company, Harborough District Commercial Services Limited. The shareholder function of this company is discharged by Council while Cabinet oversees the Board of Directors.
- 2.3. Building Control functions are discharged by the Leicestershire Building Control Partnership, which is hosted by Blaby District Council and also includes Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Melton Borough Council, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Rutland County Council.

3. Details

- 3.1. Before entering into any joint arrangements, the Council carefully assesses what delivery vehicle is best suited to deliver the functions. This will usually be presented to the decision maker in an options appraisal document which sets out the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal.
- 3.2. Once an alternative service delivery vehicle is created, Council is responsible for ensuring that it delivers the functions anticipated and as set out in the options appraisal. Once created, the activities of alternative service delivery vehicles should be reported to Council on a regular basis in compliance with the requirements of the Council Procedure Rule (Part 4, Section 1, Rule 2.11).
- 3.3. The Council has established a joint committee for the purpose of administering its revenues and benefits functions. The joint committee is hosted by North West Leicestershire and includes Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. It meets 4 times a year. As a consequence of the timing of the joint committee's annual meeting, it was not feasible to include an update on this body for this meeting, therefore an update will be provided to the next meeting of Council.

4. Implications of Decisions

Corporate Priorities

- 4.1. The Council is committed to delivering its corporate priorities as set out in its corporate plan. Providing the information contained within this report gives assurance that the Council continues to work to deliver these priorities.

Consultation

- 4.2. The identification of individuals within this report reflects the nominations provided by the relevant group leaders. No further consultation is required.

Financial

- 4.3. The financial consequences set out within this report are within the budget set by the Council.

Legal

- 4.4. This report therefore ensures that the Council is meeting its legal obligations in this regard.

Environment Implications

- 4.5. Nothing within this report is anticipated to impact upon the Council's commitment to achieving net zero carbon.

Risk Management

- 4.6. The contents of this report do not pose any risk implications for the Council – the potential risk would arise from failing to report the contents of this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.7. The Council has a statutory duty to consider and demonstrate equalities impact in all of its activities. However, the report does not impact upon the public sector equality duty given it reports

Data Protection

- 4.8. This report contains no private information.

5. Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1. The Council is required to confirm its activities through alternative service delivery vehicles therefore this report is required

6. Recommendation

- 6.1. Council is invited to receive the report.

7. Background papers

- 7.1. None