
Report To:	Policy and Resources Committee	Date:	11 February 2011
Report By:	Corporate Director Organisational Improvement and Resources	Report No:	POL/01/11/PW
Contact Officer:	Paul Wallace	Contact No:	01475 712700
Subject:	Use of Emergency Powers – Approval of participation in the next phase of the Shared Support Services Workstream and the allocation of up to £40,000 to meet the Council's share of development costs		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report advises of the use of emergency powers delegated to the Chief Executive to approve participation by the Council in the next phase of the Shared Support Services Workstream and the allocation of up to £40,000 to meet the Council's share of development costs.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Review of Joint Working and Shared Services, commissioned by the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership (CV CPP), was published in November 2009 – it identified a number of areas where it was felt that there was scope to promote joint working or shared services.
- 2.2 Since December 2009 a number of progress reports have been submitted to members advising of progress with the recommendations of the Review.
- 2.3 In February 2009 members agreed those workstreams which the Council would actively participate in, waste management and social transport. It was also agreed that the Council would engage with the workstream in relation to charging to identify any potential opportunities.
- 2.4 Members were also advised that it had been agreed by the Clyde Valley CPP that East Renfrewshire Council, supported by Inverclyde Council, would take forward the Shared Support Services Workstream.
- 2.5 A Working Group has met on a number of occasions in recent months to consider the findings of the Review, to seek to establish the scope for any potential joint working across the eight local authorities with regard to shared support services and to identify any specific opportunities.
- 2.6 The Working Group has conducted an initial prioritisation exercise to identify those areas where potential opportunities may exist for joint working and have gathered relevant supporting information from across all eight authorities.
- 2.7 The four support service areas identified for further exploration are Finance (Council Tax, NDR, Benefits), IT, HR/Payroll and Customer Management.
- 2.8 The Working Group have agreed that the next stage would be to prepare a high level business case for each of these areas to identify potential opportunities and conduct an option appraisal of possible delivery models.

- 2.9 The Clyde Valley CPP agreed on 18 August 2010 that an outline business case should be developed for shared support services by November 2010
- 2.10 It was recognised that developing an outline business case will require significant resource commitment from all eight local authorities – to support this process East Renfrewshire Council and Inverclyde Council have secured the secondment of a Project Manager from the Improvement Service and a three month secondment of an expert advisor from Ernst and Young.
- 2.11 All eight local authorities in the Clyde Valley were asked to indicate how they would support the development of the outline business case – either by making a financial contribution of £25,000 or identifying an appropriate officer for up to three days a week until the end of November.
- 2.12 The Council needed to confirm whether it would actively participate in the next phase of the Shared Support Services Workstream, the development of an outline business case, and the level of financial contribution.
- 2.13 Given the lead role the Council has taken in relation to this workstream, It was recommended that approval was given to participate in the next stage and that a financial contribution of up to £40,000 (from the earmarked reserve established to facilitate the implementation of budget savings) was made to support the development of the outline business case by November 2010.

3.0 USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS

- 3.1 The use of emergency powers delegated to the Chief Executive was authorised by Councillors McCabe, McKenzie and McLeod to approve participation in the next phase of the Shared Support Services Workstream and the allocation of up to £40,000 to meet the Council's share of development costs.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the use of emergency powers delegated to the Chief Executive.

Corporate **Paul Wallace**
 Director
 Organisational Improvement & Resources

5.0 BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The Review of Joint Working and Shared Services, commissioned by the Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership (CV CPP), was published in November 2009 – it identified a number of areas where it was felt that there was scope to promote joint working or shared services.
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6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications - One Off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Earmarked Reserves	Workstreams Implementation	2010/11	Up to £40,000		

6.2 Human Resources: none

6.3 Legal: none

6.4 Equalities: none

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer were consulted during the preparation of this report.