

Bolsover District Council

Executive

21st May 2018

Review of The Strategic Alliance – Interim Report
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Report of the Customer Service & Transformation Scrutiny Committee

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To present to Executive the completed report for the recent Scrutiny Review of The Strategic Alliance by the Customer Service & Transformation Scrutiny Committee.

1. Report Details

- 1.1 The Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review of The Strategic Alliance as part of the 2017/18 work plan following consideration of a range of topics suggested at the Annual Scrutiny Conference.

The aim of the review was to establish:

- How can the Strategic Alliance be more effective in delivering front line services?

Concerns were raised by members as to how the effectiveness of the Alliance was being monitored and reported internally.

The key issues identified are as follows:

- Which services are combined?
- Who is based where?
- Is it working?
- Is it cost efficient?
- What savings have there been over the last financial year and in previous years?
- What is working and what is not?
- Are there other ways of doing things?

- 1.2 Within its Corporate Plan 2015-2019, Bolsover District Council under the aim of Transforming Our Organisation has the following priorities and targets:

- Priority: Maximising opportunities with North East Derbyshire District Council through the Strategic Alliance.

- Target T11: Through successful delivery of projects within the Transformation programme achieve total income/savings of £600,000 by March 2019.

2. Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee have put together a number of recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council, in looking at the future arrangements for further development of the Strategic Alliance.
- 2.2 The key issues arising from the review are identified in the further work that is proposed for delivery by the Committee in 2018/19, and the recommendations that be implemented immediately, subject to agreement of Executive, to improve existing communications.
- 2.3 The Committee has concluded that due to the complexity of the topic reviewed, an Interim Report which further refined the scope and pinpointed more specific areas for review was the best course of action.

3. Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 All Scrutiny Committees are committed to equality and diversity in undertaking their statutory responsibilities and ensure equalities are considered as part of all Reviews. The selection criteria when submitting a topic, specifically asks members to identify where the topic suggested affects particular population groups or geographies.
- 3.2 The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.
- 3.3 As part of the review process there has been a survey of BDC Members to ascertain their views on a range of aspects of the current Alliance arrangements.

4. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Executive could choose not to endorse the recommendations of the review, where they feel the course of action recommended is beyond the delivery capacity of the Authority.
- 4.2 In relation to the Strategic Alliance Joint Committee, as this impacts both Authorities in the Alliance, acceptance of Recommendation CS&TSc2017/18 2.3 in the attached report will also need to come from the NEDDC Members who sit on this Committee, to enable effective implementation.

5. Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 None from this report.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in s.21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation which added/amended these powers e.g. the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 5.2.2 The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 Recommendation CS&TSc2017/18 2.1 suggests a review topic in relation to the Pay Agreements of the two Authorities within the Alliance. If this topic is taken forward for further review, the subsequent report will acknowledge all relevant HR implications.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Executive endorses the recommendations of the review outlined in section 2 of the attached report.
- 6.2 That monitoring of these recommendations by Committee takes place over a twelve month period via the PERFORM system with an update report to Committee at the end of the monitoring period.

7. Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/></i> <i>Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/></i> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/></i> <i>Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/></i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Affected	All.
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	Aim: Transforming Our Organisation Priority: Maximising opportunities with North East Derbyshire District Council through the Strategic Alliance

8. Document Information

Appendix No	Title
5A.1	Review of The Strategic Alliance – Interim Report
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
See Appendix 2 within the attached document. Documents stored in: S:\Governance and Monitoring\Scrutiny BDC\RES\Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee\2017-18 Work\Strategic Alliance	
Please contact Scrutiny & Elections Officer where further information is required.	
Report Author	Contact Number
Joanne Wilson, Scrutiny & Elections Officer	01246 242385

Report Reference –