

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 1 April 2015)

1. PROJECT INTEGRA ACTION PLAN (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 72)

The Cabinet is recommending that the action plan needed to mandate Project Integra's activities with respect to waste management across Hampshire is approved; and also that a longer term view should be taken, using a 3 year programme of action, instead of the current 1 year rolling plan. This change will also require the Constitution of the Partnership to be updated. The Cabinet concluded that the proposed 3 year plan will be more efficient, reducing the administrative burden associated with the current annual reviews.

The Cabinet is supporting proposed changes to the funding and targeting arrangements for Recycle for Hampshire, which will also allow the Partnership to seek matched funding from external sources to support specific campaigns. Under the proposed new arrangements this Council will also continue to support the Schools' Education Programme, so that it continues to operate in this District to meet local needs.

The proposed contribution by this Council towards the cost of Project Integra in 2015/16 is £20,373, compared to £31,552 in 2014/15.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the Project Integra Action Plan 2015-2018, as attached at Appendix 1 to Report A to the Cabinet, in its new format of a 3 year plan, be approved; and**
- (b) That the Project Integra Constitution be amended, as shown in Appendix 2 to Report A to the Cabinet, to reflect this change.**

2. PROVISION OF CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE ASSET ADVICE AS A SHARED SERVICE WITH THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 73)

Following the successful establishment of joint working arrangements with the New Forest National Park Authority for this Council's functions with respect to the protection and management of trees, the Cabinet is recommending the establishment of equivalent arrangements for the provision of conservation and heritage asset advice. Decisions in respect of listed buildings and conservation areas in the District, outside of the National Park, will continue to be taken by this Authority, with only the advice service being shared.

The terms of the proposed Service Level Agreement are set out in Appendix 1 of Report B to the Cabinet. Under the proposed arrangements the existing member of staff will be transferred to the National Park Authority under the terms of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employees) Regulations 2006. They raise no objection to the transfer.

The Cabinet is satisfied that there is scope for potential efficiencies and improvements to service to be achieved through the establishment of the larger team

necessary to serve both authorities. Although the savings to this Council in the short term are expected to be modest, in the longer term it should be possible to achieve savings on overheads, following the transfer of the staff. In addition, it should be possible to offer a wider range of service to the public using the resources of the combined team.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) ***That the Council enter into an agreement under S101 of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable the New Forest National Park Authority to provide professional advice on the Council's Conservation and Heritage Asset function as outlined in the draft Service Level Agreement, attached as Appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet, with powers being delegated to the New Forest National Park Authority, through its officers, to enter land and serve requisitions for information under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990; and***
- (b) ***That the Head of Planning and Transportation be authorised, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, to finalise the terms of the aforementioned agreement, the related financial provisions and the legal arrangements necessary to give effect to these recommendations.***

3. REVISION OF PROCUREMENT RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 74)

The Cabinet is supporting revisions to the Council's procurement policies and procedures, and consequent amendments to the Council's Standing Orders with respect to Contracts, to respond to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. These amendments were brought in by the Government at very short notice and the Cabinet expressed their thanks to the officers for their prompt response, bringing forward the current proposals.

In the longer term there may be significant resource implications as a result of the changes to the procurement process. In particular, the Council will no longer be able to use select lists of potential contractors, and all potential contracts above £25,000 in value will have to be made available for tender through the Government's website. On the larger contracts anybody that expressed an interest would be able to submit a tender, with the Authority no longer able to draw up a short list. The Council would however continue to be able to take quality into account, evaluating whether the tenderer was a suitable contractor, and not be bound to accept the lowest tender price.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) ***That the revised Contract Standing Orders, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report C to the Cabinet, be adopted for all procurement procedures commenced on or after 26 February 2015;***
- (b) ***That the previous Contract Standing Orders (version 14 March 2013) continue to be followed for all contract award procedures commenced on or before 25 February 2015; and***

- (c) *That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) in consultation with the Head of Property Services and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to make further revisions to the Contract Standing Orders as and when required.*

**Councillor B Rickman
CHAIRMAN**