

# APPENDIX F

## WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE 13 APRIL 2010  
COUNCIL 20 APRIL 2010

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### Title:

#### **JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE OVERSIGHT OF DELIVERY OF SURREY PUBLIC AUTHORITY SERVICES**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Richard Gates]**

**[Wards Affected: All]**

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### Summary and purpose:

This report asks the Executive to recommend the Council to agree formally to join the joint committee being established across Surrey to take forward the Surrey First shared service initiative. The resource implications are set out in the report.

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### How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Shared services will contribute to the Council's priority of providing efficient and effective services.

### Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no direct equality and diversity implications.

### Resource/Value for Money implications:

The intention of setting up the framework is to give a structure under which Councils can work together to realise the potential for achieving savings by joint working.

### Legal Implications:

These are set out in the report.

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### Introduction

1. For many years Waverley has been committed to working jointly with other Councils in the interest of securing improved services and better outcomes for residents. Following the Surrey County Council elections in May 2009 the new Leader of the County Council invited other public bodies across Surrey to come together to secure improved value for money and better outcomes for citizens through improved collaborative working.
2. The Surrey Local Government Association (SLGA) has taken a lead role in exploring ways of improving collaborative working and has now reached a

point where it considers a more formal and empowered structure is needed to take the work forward. At its meeting on 20 January 2010 the SLGA approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which set a path for the establishment of a Joint Committee of public bodies, all Local Authorities in Surrey plus Surrey Police, to oversee collaborative working arrangements and to develop the concept of a Joint Venture Company to undertake those collaborative arrangements which necessitate a formal company structure, recognising that in many case informal arrangements already worked well and could continue outside of any formal company structure.

### **Proposed Joint Committee**

3. This report asks the Executive to recommend the Council to enter into the Joint Committee for the Oversight of Delivery of Surrey Public Authority Services. An initial project budget of £165,000 has been provided to develop improved collaborative arrangements; this is being financed by £100,000 from the Surrey Improvement Partnership and £5,000 from each of the public authorities in Surrey, including Waverley.
4. The Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee shall be as follows, to:-
  - oversee joint working arrangements of the Parties;
  - promote good joint working practice amongst the Parties;
  - appoint such Task Groups or Sub Committees as it considers necessary;
  - identify the range of services for inclusion in a Joint Venture Company (JVC);
  - approve the draft the Articles and Memorandum of Association of the JVC;
  - approve the draft revised Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee to provide for governance and oversight of the JVC; and
  - manage the Project Budget.
5. It is proposed that each authority taking part in the Joint Committee should appoint one representative. Each representative will have one vote and there will be no provision for a casting vote by the Chairman. Decisions of the Joint Committee will be determined by a simple majority of those present and voting.
6. No decision of the Joint Committee which may give rise to an adverse financial implication in excess of £10,000 for a party to the Joint Committee may be implemented unless the adversely affected party has confirmed acceptance of the adverse financial implication.
7. It is important to note that whilst it is proposed that the Joint Committee has authority to approve draft Articles and Memorandum of Association of the Joint Venture Company (JVC) and authority to approve the draft revised

Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee to provide for governance and oversight of the JVC, it does not have authority to implement either.

8. To establish the JVC and adopt the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee Waverley, and each other party, through their respective normal decision-making arrangements, has to resolve to participate, or not, when the terms and benefits of participation are established.
9. Establishing the Joint Committee and participating in its deliberations does not bind the Council to join any Joint Venture Company (JVC), if established.

### **Resource Implications**

10. Waverley has been able to meet its initial contribution of £5,000 from existing current year budgets.

### **Conclusion**

11. The proposed Joint Committee will give a robust framework to progress joint working across Surrey.

### **Recommendations**

The Executive is asked to RECOMMEND to the Council that:

1. approval be given to the establishment of the Joint Committee for the Oversight of Delivery of Surrey Public Authority Services under Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972;
2. the terms of reference and governance arrangements of the Joint Committee shall be as set out above;
3. Woking Borough Council shall act as the Accountable Body for the management of the Joint Committee's affairs;
4. Surrey Local Government Association Officers shall provide secretarial support for the Joint Committee;
5. Surrey Chief Executives' Group shall be the principal advisors to the Joint Committee; and
6. the Leader of the Council be appointed as Waverley's representative and Deputy Leader as substitute, ex officio, to the Joint Committee for the period until the end of the 2010/11 Council year.

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### **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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