

**Partnership Agreement for ICT Development within Cambridgeshire
(Report by Director of Commerce & Technology)**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to seek Cabinet approval for the delegation of authority, to the Director of Commerce & Technology, to enter into an ICT partnership agreement with other public sector organisations within Cambridgeshire.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An **Information Management & Technology Programme Board (IMTPB)** has been established (chaired by the Director of Commerce & Technology for the 1st year) with representatives from Cambridgeshire County, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 2.2 Other authorities, namely, Cambridgeshire City, East Cambridgeshire Council and Peterborough City Council may join the IMTPB at a later stage.
- 2.3 The purpose of the IMTPB is to oversee a number of pan-Cambridgeshire ICT projects which reflect the growing number of shared-service ICT activities.
- 2.4 At present there are 2 projects within the programme:
- 2.4.1 Procurement of the **Cambridgeshire Public Sector Network (CPSN)**. This replaces (from April 2012) the existing Cambridgeshire Community Network (CCN) and, also, extends the scope of the shared infrastructure into other areas. For example, telephony tariffs, wide area networking within individual authorities and CCTV. Partners have the option to select which (if any) of their services are included in the final statement of requirements during the procurement stage in 2010/11. The overall value of the procurement is in the region of £40m; therefore there are opportunities to make worthwhile savings for participating partners.
- 2.4.2 **Tell Us Once**. The primary project objective is to ensure that information provided, by customers, to one public body is shared (legally & appropriately) between all interested public bodies. In some instances there can be over 20 public bodies which require notification and this project will lead to saved effort for both the customer and the public bodies. For example, notification of death information would be automatically transferred from the Register of

Births & Deaths to local authorities, DVLC etc.. The intention is for further notifications, eg change of circumstance (address etc.) to be included in future phases of the project.

2.4.3 Further projects may be added to the programme by agreement of the IMTPB.

3 PROPOSAL

3.1 In order to ensure that each partner's interests are maintained, as well as supporting the operation of the Programme Board (IMTPB), a Partnership Agreement has been drawn up – the "Information Management and Technology Partnership".

3.2 The agreement has been reviewed by Law, Property & Governance division and found to be satisfactory.

3.3 Particular attention is drawn to the following aspects of the agreement:

3.3.1 Each member of the IMTPB to ensure they have delegated authority to act on behalf of the represented body (the purpose of this paper)

3.3.2 Partners may decide not to participate in individual projects, in which case their voting rights, associated with those projects alone, would be suspended.

3.3.3 Partnership members shall only have to pay contributions to projects (or any other costs) that they have explicitly agreed to contribute to in advance, and then only to the total amount agreed.

3.3.4 Decisions will be made on a majority vote of those Partnership Members participating in the vote.

3.3.5 The partnership does not prevent any party pursuing, either separately or together, IT telecommunications or technology projects outside of the Partnership Agreement.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- i) Agree in principle to the Council entering into the Information Management and Technology Partnership;
- ii) Delegates authority to the Director of Commerce and Technology to sign the partnership agreement once the wording has been finalised.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Draft "Partnership Agreement relating to Information Management and Technology Partnership"

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