

Public - Yes  
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Service Delivery Options for Legal and IMD

**Meeting/Date:** Overview & Scrutiny (Economic Well-Being) - 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
Cabinet – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**Executive Portfolio:** Customer Services and Strategic Economic Development and Legal

**Report by:** Managing Director  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
IMD Service Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All (indirectly)

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**Executive Summary:**

To consider the possible options for developing shared services, initially with regard to Legal and ICT services.

**Recommendation(s):**

That Cabinet endorse:-

1. The cessation of negotiations with LGSS; and,
2. The continuation of discussions with SCDC.

## **1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT?**

- 1.1 To consider the possible options for developing shared services, initially with regard to Legal and ICT services.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Following several months of detailed discussions between relevant officers from the Council and LGSS COMT considered the outline business cases for Legal, IMD and Revenues and Benefits to enter into potential Partnership and Delegation Agreements with LGSS. Following early development of options a detailed business case was developed for Legal and IMD services. This phase of work included a presentation by LGSS to Overview & Scrutiny on 9th January 2014 where Councillors were able to understand the nature of the business proposition by LGSS.
- 2.2 Negotiations continued with further amendments to the possible relationship between the Council and LGSS on these two areas, which resulted in a narrowing of the difference between the initial LGSS proposition and the expectations of the District Council.

## **3. OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

- 3.1 Further negotiations have led to considerable developments in the possible relationship between the Council and LGSS however one fundamental issue remains. That issue is one of influence and control in a 'shared service' arrangement. The final business case proposition resolved all outstanding concerns that the Council had identified with the exception of the control over the partnership arrangements, which due to the ultimate constitution of LGSS remains vested in Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire County Councils, through the LGSS Shareholder Board.
- 3.2 The Council could choose to delegate responsibility of the selected services to LGSS, accepting the limitations of control due to the Shareholder Board. However, the Council has other options and on 10th April 2014 announced the intention to explore a new strategic framework with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). This has presented a different opportunity for a genuine shared service model, and discussions are underway between officers at both organisations. Given this prospect the LGSS option is no longer being pursued.

## **4. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 It is expected that a progress report will be considered at a joint, informal, meeting of the SCDC and HDC Cabinets in June 2014 and a formal report to Cabinet in July.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 That Cabinet endorse:-
  - a) The cessation of negotiations with LGSS; and,
  - b) The continuation of discussions with SCDC.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Business Case for Sharing Services Huntingdonshire District Council and LGSS (versions 1 & 2)

## **CONTACT OFFICERS**

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