

Shared Revenue and Benefits Service Joint Committee

Shared Revenue and Benefits Service Joint Committee 16 July 2015

Present:

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| Councillor Rawlinson | – Chair - Cabinet Member for Resources, Preston City Council |
| Councillor Newman-Thompson | – Vice-Chair – Cabinet Member for Finance, Revenues and Benefits, Lancaster City Councillor |
| Councillor Rankin | – Leader, Preston City Council |
| Councillor Blamire | – Leader, Lancaster City Council |

Also in attendance:

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| Mr A Robinson | – Head of Shared Service/Deputy Director |
| Ms J Wilding | – City Treasurer/Section 151 Officer, Preston City Council |
| Mr S Cox | – Principal Accountant, Preston City Council |
| Ms D Chambers | – Democratic Services Manager, Lancaster City Council |

Apologies: Ms N Muschamp – Chief Officer (Resources)/Section 151 Officer, Lancaster City Council

SRB42 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominations were invited for the role of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

Resolved – That Councillor Rawlinson be appointed as Chair and Councillor Newman-Thompson be appointed Vice-Chair of the Shared Revenues and Benefits Service Joint Committee for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

SRB43 Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed new and established Members to the first meeting of the Joint Committee for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

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SRB44 Declarations of Interests

There were none.

SRB45 Notification of Substitute Members (if any)

There were none.

SRB46 Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Shared Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee held on 18 December 2014 be noted and signed as a correct record.

SRB47 Shared Service - Annual Governance Statement

The Director of Corporate Services (Preston City Council) submitted a report informing Members on the content of the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15. The Annual Governance Statement was set out in Appendix A to the report together with a summary table documenting recent audit work undertaken in relation to the Shared Service, set out in Appendix B.

Resolved – That the Joint Committee approves the Annual Governance Statement as set out in Appendix A to the report.

SRB48 Shared Service (Unaudited) Annual Statement of Accounts 2014/15

The Section 151 Officer (Preston City Council) submitted a report on the preparation of the Revenues and Benefits Shared Services Statement of Accounts which provided a true and fair view of the financial position of the Shared Service at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2015.

The Partnership prepared its statutory Annual Accounts and supporting financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in United Kingdom 2014/15 (The Code).

Resolved – That the Joint Committee approves the Unaudited Revenues and Benefits Statement of Accounts for 2014/15, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

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SRB49 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Shared Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee would be arranged at a later date.

SRB50 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved - That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that there is likely to be a disclosure of exempt information which is described in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

SRB51 Business Plan 2015 (Shared Revenues and Benefits Service) (Paragraphs 1 and 3)

The Deputy Director (Customer Services) submitted a report on the formal shared service arrangement between Lancaster and Preston City Councils which was entered into with effect from 1 July 2011 to provide a Revenues and Benefits Service across both City Council areas.

In line with the agreement a refreshed Business Plan for the three year period 2015 – 2018, incorporating the key performance indicators for the service together with ongoing projects and future challenges, was submitted for consideration. The Business Plan also contained a financial appraisal of the 2014/15 outturn position, and the budget requirement for 2015/16, approved at the previous meeting.

Resolved - The Joint Committee approved the Business Plan for 2015.

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