

Shared Revenue and Benefits Service Joint Committee

Shared Revenue and Benefits Service Joint Committee 26 July 2021

PRESENT:-	Councillor Martyn Rawlinson	Chair, Cabinet Member for Resources (Preston City Council)
	Councillor Anne Whitehead	Vice-Chair, Cabinet Member for Finance (Lancaster City Council)
	Councillor Caroline Jackson	Leader of Lancaster City Council
APOLOGIES:-	Councillor Matthew Brown	Leader of Preston City Council
OFFICERS IN	Sarah Davies	Director of Corporate Services (Lancaster City Council)
ATTENDANCE:	Jackie Wilding	Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer (Preston City Council)
	Adrian Robinson	Chief Officer (Revenues and Benefits)/Head of Shared Service
	Paul Thompson (<i>present remotely on 'Teams'</i>)	Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer) (Lancaster City Council)
	Debbie Chambers	Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Lancaster City Council)
	Candice Lancaster	Business Support Manager
	Andrew Taylor	Revenues Manager
	Alec Reid	Democratic Support Officer (Lancaster City Council)

SRB1 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

It was noted that Lancaster City Council had chaired in 2020/21, therefore Councillor Martyn Rawlinson, Cabinet Member for Resources at Preston City Council was appointed Chair for 2021/22.

Councillor Anne Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Finance and was appointed Vice-Chair.

Resolved:

- (1) That Councillor Martyn Rawlinson be appointed Chair of the Shared Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee for 2021/22.
- (2) That Councillor Anne Whitehead be appointed Vice-Chair of the Shared Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee for 2021/22.

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SRB2 Chair's Announcements

None.

SRB3 Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

SRB4 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Resolved:

That the minutes of a meeting of the Shared Revenues and Benefits Services Joint Committee, held on 14 December 2020, be noted and signed as a correct record.

SRB5 Shared Service (Unaudited) Annual Statement of Accounts 2020/21

The Director of Resources (Preston City Council) submitted a report on the preparation of the Revenues and Benefits Shared Services Statement of Accounts.

The host authority had prepared the Revenues and Benefits Shared Service unaudited Statement of Account 2020/21 in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) 2020/21.

The unaudited Statement of Accounts was set out in Appendix A to the report.

Resolved:

That the unaudited Revenues and Benefits Statement of Accounts for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be approved.

SRB6 Shared Service - Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

The Director of Resources (Preston City Council) submitted a report requesting that the Shared Revenues and Benefits Service Joint Committee consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21. The Annual Governance Statement was set out in Appendix A to the report.

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Members commented that they would like to see benchmarking information against other local authorities for areas such as timely distribution of COVID grants and numbers of complaints, to give some context to the figures.

It was agreed to circulate the respective schedules for audit of the Shared Service, so that the Joint Committee members could have sight of those.

Resolved:

That the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved.

SRB7 Shared Service - Delegation and Procedural Rules

Members were advised of a review of the delegation and procedure rules for the Shared Revenues and Benefits Service, following the recent decision by both Preston and Lancaster City Councils to continue the service for a further ten years.

Resolved:

That the Joint Committee

- (1) Delegates its Revenues and Benefits functions to the Chief Officer (Revenues and Benefits)/Head of Shared Service, as set out in Appendix B of the report.
- (2) Approves the Shared Revenues and Benefits Service Joint Committee Procedure Rules, as set out in Appendix C of the report, to govern its meetings and proceedings; and
- (3) Appoints the Assistant Director (City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer) (Preston) as Secretary to the Joint Committee.

SRB8 Shared Service - Business Plan 2021 - 2023

The Head of Shared Service presented his report introducing a refreshed Business Plan covering a two-year period 2021/2023, incorporating the key performance indicators for the services together with ongoing projects and future challenges.

The Plan also contained a financial appraisal of the 2020/21 outturn position and the budget requirement for 2021/22, approved at the previous meeting of the Joint Committee.

The Business Plan was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

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Resolved:

That the Business Plan for the Revenues and Benefits Shared Service for 2021/2023, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

SRB9 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was due to be held in December 2021 and the exact date and time would be agreed via email after the meeting.