

# Item 5

## REPORT TO CABINET

19 JANUARY 2006

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

### Performance Management Portfolio

### REPORT ON THE REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE COUNTY DURHAM E-GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

#### 1 SUMMARY

This report seeks the approval of Cabinet to the revised constitution of the Joint Committee for the County Durham e-Government Partnership

#### 2 RECOMMENDED

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Review and approve the changes to the Joint Constitution which is supportive of Article 11 (joint working) of the Council's own Constitution

#### 3 BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The County Durham e-Government Partnership of all eight councils in County Durham has been established to deal specifically with the joined-up development of electronic service delivery across County Durham.

- 3.1.2 The vision is:

- 3.1.3 ***“Working together and across all boundaries to deliver quality, joined up, customer focused services (regardless of personal means, locality and circumstances)”***.

- 3.1.4 This vision is about what the customers, residents, citizens within Durham can expect from the partnership and has been defined by the Countywide Access to Services Strategy to which all Chief Executives committed on 27 June 2003.

- 3.1.5 The Partnership offers the Council many opportunities including:

- Reduced duplication of efforts
- Sharing resources, expertise and scarce skill sets
- Access to external funds for projects and partnership working
- Economies of scale, aggregating purchasing for greater leverage. Recently realised through the joint procurement of a countywide customer relationship management system that delivered a joint procurement efficiency saving of £2,750,000.
- Improved terms from marketplace providers

- ❑ Sharing of lessons learned when changing cultural and working practices
  - ❑ Reduced costs in supplier qualification and adoption
  - ❑ Working more collaboratively with common suppliers
  - ❑ Minimising the risks and burden of implementation
  - ❑ Deliver faster returns on investment.
- 3.1.6 The Government is continuing to promote partnership working through various mechanisms including CPA (Corporate Performance Assessment). The new KLOE (Key Line of Enquiry) for the Corporate Assessment within single tier and county councils has had additional criteria added placing an emphasis on partnership working:
- 3.1.6.1 **Level 2:** The council has sufficient ICT resources to deliver its priorities. There is progress towards realising the benefits of e-government. Competencies for e-government-based change are embedded in the organisation. The council uses ICT to improve services. It has achieved the required priority outcomes for e-government, including the availability of online facilities at all times.
- 3.1.6.2 **Level 3: The council uses ICT effectively throughout its activities and partnerships.** It uses e-government to deliver objectives and service improvements, to gather information about community needs, and **to join up services in collaboration with partners.** ICT provides real-time management information about service use. The council understands the levels of Internet usage in the community and is working with partners to improve access. The council has achieved the 'required' and 'good' priority outcomes for e-government.
- 3.1.7 By agreeing to the revised Joint Constitution, Sedgefield Borough Council agrees to continue to fully participate in the County Durham e-Government Partnership to promote the e-Government vision and promote that vision through achieving the objectives and functions of the Joint Committee.
- 3.1.8 The Council formally agreed the original constitution of the County Durham e-Government Partnership in November 2003.
- 3.1.9 The Partnership's Joint Committee agreed the revised constitution on 30 November 2005.
- 3.1.10 At this meeting, each member agreed the recommendation that his or her respective local authority formally approve the revised constitution.
- 3.1.11 The revised agreement reflects changes and inclusions associated with:
- 3.1.11.1 The inclusion of the partnership's asset register (Appendix 5).

- 3.1.11.2 The inclusion that the assets listed in the Asset Register are secured and insured.
- 3.1.11.3 The inclusion that on termination of the agreement by a local authority within the partnership that any assets remaining on the Asset Register shall be disposed of as the Joint Committee see fit.
- 3.1.11.4 The inclusion of Wear Valley's standing orders to be used as a framework for partnership procurements etc (as outlined in Appendix 2)
- 3.1.11.5 Changes to the name of the Officer Board. This is now the Programme Board.
- 3.1.11.6 Inclusion of delegated roles and responsibilities of Programme Board members (outlined in Appendix 4 & agreed previously by all Chief Executives).
- 3.1.11.7 Voting rights for member substitutes.
- 3.1.11.8 Change to the name of Programme Team - now known as the Programme Office.
- 3.1.11.9 Extension to the terms of financing the Programme Office - extended from 2005-2006 to 2007-2008
- 3.1.11.10 Inclusion of terms to the Programme Budget -. The Programme Budget will identify the following costs: (i) Initial project scoping and research (ii) Project development, including software and hardware (iii) On-going revenue.
- 3.1.11.11 Changes to severance terms.
- 3.1.11.12 Changes to the Programme Delivery Structure (Appendix 1)
- 3.1.11.13 Changes to quorum - from 5 councils represented to 4 councils represented.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1.1 It is proposed that each Authority contribute £15,000 to fund the salaries and running costs of the Partnership's Programme Office. Because of resource restrictions, a smaller figure has been agreed by the partnership for Teesdale District Council. An initial provision of £15,000 has been made in the 2006-2007 draft revenue budget.
- 4.1.2 50% of the Partnership's Capital Programme is to be funded by Durham County Council. The contribution for Sedgefield Borough Council (based on population size) equates to £125,821 for 2006-2007. Initial provision has been made in the 2006-2007 draft capital budget.

### **5 CONSULTATIONS**

- 5.1.1 The revised constitution was produced in consultation with the Programme Board and Joint Committee of the County Durham e-Government Partnership.
- 5.1.2 The Council's Solicitor and Resources Department representative have reviewed the constitution on behalf of the Council. Whilst the Council's Solicitor approves the revisions he wants to make members very aware of the change to quorum and the implications of this to those authorities that are not represented in the key decision making of the

Joint Committee. It is imperative therefore that the Council's member substitute can attend meetings in the absence of Councillor David Newell.

## **6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **6.1 Links to Corporate Objectives**

6.1.1 The Partnership's work programme is about improving access to services and the effectiveness of service delivery processes through electronic means. As such it is key to the council's stated ambition to make its services accessible.

### **6.2 Risk Management**

6.2.1 The Partnership has adopted the STORM (Strategic and Operational Risk Management) methodology as a framework to measure and mitigate the risks associated with projects failing.

### **6.3 Health & Safety**

6.3.1 There are no additional Health & Safety Implications.

### **6.4 Legal and Constitutional**

6.4.1 The Joint Constitution of the County Durham e-Government Partnership is supportive of Article 10 of the Council's own constitution.

### **6.5 Equality and Diversity**

6.5.1 Equality and Diversity considerations are an inherent part of Implementing Electronic Government. Electronic delivery of services is a key contributing factor to the Council's corporate priority to ensure fair access to services regardless of religion, sex, race, gender etc as set out in the Corporate Plan and Corporate Equality Plan.

## **7 LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Revised Constitution

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Original Joint Constitution of the County Durham e-Government Partnership (August 2003)  
Report to Full Council on the Constitution of the Joint Committee for the County Durham e-government partnership (November 2003)  
ODPM 'Defining e-government priority services & transformation outcomes in 2005 for local authorities in England' (April 2004)  
Delivering Efficiency in Local Services (ODPM – January 2005)

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**Ward(s)** Proposals are not ward specific

**Examination by Statutory Officers**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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