

9. Partnership Governance with East Devon District Council

Strategic Director: Mark Williams, Chief Executive
Assistant Director: Donna Parham, Finance and Corporate Services
Lead Officer: Donna Parham, Assistant Director, Finance and Corporate Services
Contact Details: donna.parham@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462225

Purpose of the Report

This report updates the Audit Committee on the progress of the partnership with East Devon District Council and any governance proposals.

Recommendation

The Audit Committee is recommended to note the update in joint working with East Devon District Council.

Introduction

A Joint Integration Committee has been set up to oversee and make recommendations on how South Somerset District Council and East Devon District Council can work together. At the Full Council meeting on the 25th February 2010 members also accepted the recommendations from Scrutiny Committee including the following;

“It should be the responsibility of the Audit function of both authorities to monitor:

- Proceedings regarding each authority’s governance framework to check that there are no clashes/impact;
- The progress of achieving projected savings and report exceptions to the Scrutiny Committee”.

(Please note that this recommendation in effect can only be applied at SSDC as it is an SSDC resolution)

Current Position

The Joint Integration Committee and the District Executive have agreed that the following services continue to work through a business case for joint service provision:

- Finance
- HR
- ICT
- Revenues and Benefits
- Licensing
- Legal and Democratic Services
- Public Spaces – Street Cleaning and Civil Contingencies
- Licensing and Environmental Health

Currently the work streams must be finalised by the 23rd August in preparation for the 7th September Joint integration Committee. The Chief Executive will also propose a joint

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management structure at that meeting. At that point there is likely to be some areas of governance for the Audit Committee to consider.

Financial Implications

None.

Background Papers: *Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Minutes 9th February 2010*
Council Agenda and Minutes 25th February 2010
Joint Integration Committee Terms of Reference
Joint Integration Committee 8th April 2010, 17th June 2010
District Executive 1st July 2010
S113 Agreement
