

Scrutiny Committee – 1st February 2011

10. Partnership Working - Savings

Executive Portfolio Holder: Cllr Tim Carroll, Leader of the Council
Strategic Director: Mark Williams, Chief Executive
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Purpose of the Report

The Committee has asked for an outline of savings achieved to date through partnership working. Partnership arrangements with East Devon District Council (EDDC) commenced on the 22nd March 2010 when EDDC agreed to place its Chief Executive at the disposal of SSDC.

Both Councils established the Joint Integration Committee (JIC) as the primary vehicle for identifying and assessing areas of opportunity for savings. A number of business cases for sharing were considered by the JIC but none have been taken forward.

Following the cancellation of the JIC scheduled for October 2010 there are to be no further meetings of the committee at the present time. The following SSDC Council minutes of 9th December 2010 confirm the current situation.

RESOLVED: That Council:

1. noted that there would be no further meetings of the Joint Integration Committee at the present time.
2. noted that both EDDC and SSDC would continue with the Strategic Alliance but on a more evolutionary basis than a programmed approach.
3. agreed that proposals and business plans for further sharing would be agreed by respective Executive Committees rather than the Joint Integration Committee until such time as both Councils agree the JIC should be reconvened.
4. agreed that joint initiatives around procurement, Audit services, ICT software and Infrastructure and Insurance etc. continue to be explored for future savings.
5. noted that due to the financial pressures on both authorities, work on the Lean programme at South Somerset continued to ensure teams were the most efficient they could be.

Reason: to agree to vary the approach previously adopted regarding the sharing of services and the exploiting of resulting financial benefits with East Devon District Council.

Summary of savings achieved to date

CEO £96,100

Civil Contingencies and
Business Planning £10,000 (final sum to be agreed)

Officers at both authorities are continuing to share information and discuss possibilities but it is not anticipated that any formal discussions will happen until later this calendar year.

Action Required

Members to note the current situation.

Financial Implications

There are no other financial implications other than those identified above.

Background Papers: *Council Minutes of 9 December 2010*
