

## CABINET– 23 APRIL 2019

### UPDATE FROM THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY AND CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP

#### Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Interim)

#### Purpose of report

1. To provide an update with regards to the progress of the joint working partnership between Cherwell District and Oxfordshire County Councils.

#### Recommendations

2. **Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**
  - (a) **note the report attached at appendix 1.**
  - (b) **endorse the recommendations in the report (appendix 1) and agree (subject to agreement by Cherwell District Council Executive) to establish a project team to develop the next phase of partnership working.**

#### Introduction

3. Appendix 1 is a detailed report from the Oxfordshire and Cherwell Partnership Working Group setting out progress and options for future development of the partnership after six months in operation.
4. At the inception of the partners it was agreed that a six-month review would take place to consider progress and next steps. The report sets out positive progress and savings identified.

#### Report Details

5. The report at appendix 1 sets out the progress of the partnership since its inception in October 2018. Including a series of recommendations to develop and enhance joint working.
6. Positive progress has been shown alongside opportunities for further development. It is the view of the Partnership Working Group that the joint working model demonstrates a good opportunity for Cherwell and Oxfordshire to generate savings, deliver efficiencies and improve two tier working. The recommendations set out how this can be further developed. Executive is asked to agree these recommendations.

7. In addition to the recommendations the Partnership Working Group have also set out a proposal to establish a joint project team to expedite the delivery of joint working. This team will be co-funded and expected to deliver savings in excess of its costs. Funding will be drawn from existing service budgets and/or transformation reserve.

## **Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

8. Cabinet is asked to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

## **Consultation**

N/A

## **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

9. The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Cabinet may choose not to endorse the report. If this was the case it is likely that the joint working partnership between CDC and OCC would come to an end.

## **Implications**

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

10. Joint working is a proven way of delivering savings (with 315,000 already identified as set out in appendix 1). A dedicated project team will expediate the delivery of further savings. Any project delivery team will be joint funded and is expected to deliver savings greater than their cost, in effect 'paying for themselves'. The initial establishment of the team will be funded from within existing resources/transformation reserve.

### **Legal Implications**

11. There are no legal implications arising from this report. The governance of the partnership is set out in an existing section 113 agreement between the two authorities.

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Assistant Chief Executive (Interim)

Appendix : Partnership Review, Evaluation and Next Steps  
Report of the Partnership Working Group

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