

Council20th July 2017**Agenda Item 24**

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Orbis Joint Committee		
Date of Meeting:	20th July 2017 13 th July 2017 – Policy, Resources & Growth Committee		
Report of:	Executive Lead Strategy Governance and Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Elizabeth Culbert	Tel: 01273 291515
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The report seeks Policy, Resources & Growth Committee endorsement of the planned governance arrangements for the Orbis Partnership, prior to the arrangements being presented to full Council for approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:*That Policy, Resources & Growth Committee:*

- 2.1 Recommends to Full Council on 20th July 2017 the establishment of the Orbis Joint Committee with effect from 1st April 2017, details of which are set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

That Full Council:

- 2.1 Agrees the establishment of the Orbis Partnership Joint Committee with effect from 1st April 2017, constituted in accordance with the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix 1;
- 2.2 Notes that the appointment of the Joint Committee is dependent upon all the bodies represented on the Joint Committee agreeing that it be appointed;
- 2.3 Grants delegated authority to the Chief Executive and the Executive Director Finance & Resources to take all measures necessary for or incidental to (i) the implementation of recommendations (2.2.1) and (2.2.2) above, and (ii) the on-going management and administration of the Joint Committee; and
- 2.4 Instructs the Monitoring Officer to amend the council's constitution to reflect the establishment of the Joint Committee.
- 2.5 Agrees the appointment of Councillors Hamilton and Wealls to the Orbis Joint Committee.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 In April 2016 Policy & Resources Committee agreed to support the continuation of work for the Council to formally partner with East Sussex and Surrey County Councils within the Orbis Partnership. The Committee delegated authority to the Executive Director, Finance and Resources to agree the timings for services to integrate into the Orbis model of delivery and to sign the Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) once judged appropriate to do so, following consultation with the council's Lead Member for Orbis, the Council's Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer.

3.2 Further detailed work was reported to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee in October 2016 when it was noted that the key financial test had been met ie that the trajectory of Orbis savings is sufficiently aligned with the requirements of Brighton & Hove City Council to make partnership working viable and desirable. The report detailed the progress on a service by service basis in respect of those services within the scope of the IAA, namely:-

- Finance
- Procurement and Internal Audit
- Revenue and Benefits
- ICT
- HR
- Business Operations
- Property and Design

3.3 The Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) between East Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council has now been signed. The agreement joins Brighton & Hove Council to the Orbis Partnership as a founding partner from 1st April 2017. The term of the IAA is one year, allowing the parties to conduct further integration work prior to concluding a more detailed IAA on 1ST April 2018.

3.4 The functions of overseeing the services to be delivered through the Orbis Partnership are to be discharged by a Joint Committee with a membership comprising two members from each authority and with the following terms of reference:-

To oversee and to improve delivery of the Services for the benefit of each participating Council and in particular to:

- Recommend proposals to meet the annual budget for Orbis, set by each of the Councils;
- Approve the Orbis Business Plan and performance measures;
- Monitor the Orbis Business Plan and performance of Orbis;
- Make recommendations to the constituent authorities regarding revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Orbis Joint Committee.

A full copy of the governance arrangements as incorporated into the IAA is set out at Appendix 1.

- 3.5 Policy, Resources & Growth Committee is asked to consider the proposed terms of reference for the Orbis Partnership Joint Committee and recommend to full Council that the Joint Committee be appointed.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Brighton & Hove City Council is not obliged to enter a shared service partnership arrangement but it has been judged to offer the potential for considerable benefits to the Council in respect of supporting the identification and delivery of savings and efficiencies.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A number of staff engagement events have taken place providing the opportunity to build relationships and look at the next steps for working in partnership and collaborating together in each service.
- 5.2 Joint trade union meetings with representatives from the three partner authorities continue to take place.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 In order to formally delegate the function of overseeing the services covered by the Orbis Partnership IAA, a joint committee is required to be established pursuant to s102(1)(b) Local Government Act 1972.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Any actions required, such as the management and administration of the committee arrangements will be met within existing resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 4th July 2017

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The legal implications are addressed in the body of the report. The proposals set out in this report regarding membership of the Joint Committee are exempt from requirements for political proportionality (Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Schedule 1).

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 290617

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 Equalities Impact Assessments are being completed for each service as plans for operational change are developed.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 None

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None in relation to this report

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Schedule 1 IAA Governance Arrangements