

ONESOURCE JOINT COMMITTEE 19 January 2018

Subject heading:

Report author and contact details:

Financial summary:

oneSource update for January 2018

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This report provides an update of current activity across oneSource.

SUMMARY

The updates in this report include:-

- Transition to Trading
- oneSource Integrated Plan
- Appointment of the oneSource Interim Chief Executive
- Commercial developments.

An update on the budget is detailed in a separate report on this agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joint Committee is asked to note the report.

REPORT DETAIL

Transition to Trading

Following the previous meeting of the oneSource Joint Committee in November, it has been decided to delay the activation of the dormant company, oneSource Partnership Ltd, which had been planned for early spring.

Having reviewed the extent of the tasks required to set up the company, it was clear that it was not going to be possible to make the January round of Cabinet meetings. In particular, more work needs to be done in relation to the oneSource Partnership Ltd Business Plan. This work is currently underway through the oneSource Shadow Commissioning Board which is an officer board with attendees from all three councils. This process, plus the local Member-led Steering Groups, have identified new areas of work which need to completed as part of the business planning process eg Havering have asked for a specific report on the implications for all three pension funds. This work is underway.

There are no plans to transfer any services into the company until at least the autumn of 2018. The only activity that was planned for the company in the short term was the appointment of the Interim Chief Executive. As the Interim Chief Executive is expected to be in place shortly (see below), the plan was always for them to be appointed by Havering in the first instance. They will now simply be employed by Havering for a longer period of time.

All three councils have been consulted and are on board with this new timetable. Bexley council is still to decide when to take a share in oneSource Partnership Ltd. They recently wrote confirming that they welcome the work undertaken by Red Quadrant, which they recognised included good engagement and some considered conclusions, and they support the proposal to re-launch oneSource Partnership Ltd as a company. They have re-iterated that they remain committed to oneSource and value, and want to further develop, their partnership with both Havering and Newham. But, as for all three councils, they want to make sure they achieve the best for their residents and staff. They have therefore asked if consideration to their membership of the company can be delayed until the first business case is presented in respect of a service Bexley receives.

A Transition to Trading briefing was provided for Havering Members in early January. A similar presentation can be provided to Newham and Bexley Members should this be required.

A further cross-borough union meeting has been held but no specific areas of concern have been raised, just a request to continue to keep staff regularly updated. So far, five bulletins have gone out to all staff and following the Joint Committee meeting in November a round of face-to-face staff briefings took place, one in each of the three councils. Engagement by staff on this project has been good and briefings have been well attended. The full Red Quadrant report, plus the supporting slides from the Joint Committee in November, have been made available to all staff.

oneSource Integrated Programme Plan

The oneSource Management Team are working up the overall Transition to Trading programme plan which we hope to finalise by the end of January.

Work is already underway to implement two new ICT systems that will allow oneSource to manage its finances in a more commercial way. There are four initial service review pilots and these are making good progress with completion scheduled for the end of January. A full schedule of the service reviews needed across the whole of oneSource will be consulted on very soon. The staff engagement group (ONCE) have held their inaugural meeting and are enthusiastically planning their work programme.

The Transition to Trading programme plan will eventually be combined with the oneSource Transformation Plan into a oneSource Integrated Programme Plan for the period to April 2019. The individual project plans for each workstream are currently being loaded onto oneSource's ExecView system (shared with Havering) to enable corporate reporting, including for the Joint Committee.

Update on the appointment of the oneSource Interim Chief Executive

It is anticipated that the new oneSource Interim Chief Executive will be appointed on the day before the oneSource Joint Committee meeting (18 January). A verbal update will be provided at the Joint Committee.

Commercial developments

oneSource continues to have success in being shortlisted for awards. We have for the second year running been nominated for the Best Service Delivery Model award at the Local Government Chronical Awards in March 2018. Last year we took a commissioner-led approach to the presentation but were unsuccessful. This year we have involved a range of customers in our presentation in the hope of capturing the judging panel's attention. The judging panel takes place on 15 January but the results will not be announced until the award ceremony in March.

We have also been shortlisted for the "Supplier Led HR Innovation & Collaboration" award for the Day One Sickness project with Medigold. The award recognises excellent partnership working between a supplier and organisation to help achieve the organisation's strategic objectives. Winners will be announced on 6 February 2018

Regular award nominations are keeping our profile high in the sector.

We continue to be awarded work by the Newham small businesses as they move to company status and we have recently begun to renegotiate contracts that were won last year with the Newham small businesses. We are in discussions with them about extending the length of the contracts from one year to three years. This is requiring oneSource to rethink the offer it provides, diversifying into services that are more suited to small businesses and improving our customer service. Our services are improving fast in these areas and this could become a growing side to the business over time, beyond companies connected to the three partner councils.

Finally we are also working on specific opportunities with a number of London Boroughs and a District Council.

Legal implications and risks:

None

Financial Implications and risks:

None

HR Implications and risks:

None

Background Papers

None