

Public Document Pack

**MINUTES OF A
ONESOURCE JOINT
COMMITTEE MEETING
Virtual Meeting
Friday, 26 June 2020
(3.00 - 3.25 pm)**

Present:

Councillor Roger Ramsey (Chairman), Robert Benham, Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz, John Gray and Terry Paul

Unless otherwise indicated all decisions were agreed unanimously.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors David Leaf and Damian White.

5 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest

6 PROTOCOL ON THE OPERATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

The protocol was noted.

7 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was RESOLVED to exclude the Press and public from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION

The report sought Joint Committee approval to agree to Newham and Bexley's request to make changes to the shared service arrangement.

OneSource partners had recently reviewed the services delegated to oneSource and in addition oneSource has conducted its own review. As a result of these reviews a number of changes had been proposed and agreed in principle by all parties. It was proposed that oneSource returns

the delivery of Newham finance functions (except the Transactional Team, the Oracle Systems Support Team plus the Treasury and Pensions Team) back to the Council under the s.151 officer and that all services in Bexley should also return to the sovereign borough.

LB Newham and LB Bexley requested the following changes to the shared arrangement:-

- Bexley wish to withdraw all delegated services from oneSource
- Newham wish to withdraw from all Finance Services except for the Finance services provided currently by the Transactional Team, Treasury and Pensions and the Oracle Systems Support Team (the latter initially for one year only).

If the requests are agreed, they will create additional costs for Havering which will lose some of the economies of scale that have been achieved by sharing services. Under the Partnership Agreement between the three boroughs, the two boroughs requesting the withdrawal of services must compensate Havering for the additional costs this change creates.

It was explained that the Joint Committee arrangement is backed by an agreement under section 101 of the Local Authority Act 1972 between the three authorities, the oneSource Joint Agreement. The agreement provides for the variation of the agreement, which may include the addition or withdrawal of services. The agreement provides for the agreement of compensatory payments arising from any variation of the agreement. If agreement cannot be reached, there is provision in the agreement for dispute resolution.

The report set out the potential financial impact on Havering and calculates the payments due to Havering from Newham and Bexley for the next 30 months to give Havering an opportunity to develop alternative sustainable arrangements.

The Joint Committee RESOLVED:

1. To agree Bexley's full withdrawal from oneSource from 31st July 2020, waiving the requirement to give 15 months' notice
2. To agree Newham's withdrawal from all Finance Services except for the Finance services provided currently by the Transactional Team, Treasury and Pensions and the Oracle Systems Support Team (the latter initially for one year only).
3. To agree the financial compensation payable by the exiting boroughs as detailed in Table 2 of the report.
4. To note that further work needs to be undertaken to complete these changes to the partnership and to agree to officers continuing this work in the spirit of any agreement reached by the oneSource Joint committee
5. To note that the authorities may be required to delegate duties to each other under section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 in order to effect a smooth transition beyond 31st July 2020

6. To vary the terms of the oneSource agreement to withdraw the Bexley's membership of the oneSource Joint committee with effect from 31st July 2020
7. To agree a joint press release at Appendix 2 of the report
8. To note that the decisions of the Joint Committee are subject to equivalent decisions being made by each and all of the authorities in respect of the delegation of powers to the Joint Committee and the other terms of the agreement set out in this report.

Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank