

Review of the Revenues & Benefits service

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor E Woodburn
LEAD OFFICER: Jane Salt, Head of Customer Services
REPORT AUTHOR: Jane Salt, Head of Customer Services

Summary and Recommendation:

The Executive agree to use reserves to cover costs connected with presenting a business case for the future of the Revenues and Benefits service.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Executive have agreed the Project Initiation Document to review the future delivery of the Revenues and Benefits Service. In this document it stated that the Council's share of meeting the costs of producing the business case, mainly to resource the expert assistance needed, will be in the region of £25,000.

1.2 This report identifies a source of funding for this and requests Executive approval.

2. ARGUMENT

2.1 There will be a requirement to fund some expenditure attached to the delivery of the work packages. An example of some of the expenditure will be to run external workshops and consultation, as well as recruit suitable external resources to take the lead on the work packages where we have insufficient internal resources.

2.3 Each of the 3 Local Authorities involved (Allerdale, Carlisle and Copeland) have agreed to a maximum of £25k and any underspend will be returned to reserves.

3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

3.1 The expenditure can be covered by either the underspend on salaries due to the vacancies within Revenues and Benefits or

3.2 by a grant from DWP which is currently in earmarked reserves.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The earmarked reserve is for £41k. If £25k is utilised for this project there will still be £16k to cover any additional expenditure against the DWP grant which will be sufficient for the anticipated costs.

5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

5.1 Need to release £25k from earmarked reserves.

6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The project initiation document covers this and has previously been circulated to Executive.

7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

7.1 This is evidence of Copeland working jointly with other authorities in Cumbria to improve the system of local government (1.1.3)

List of Appendices

None

List of Background Documents:

List of Consultees: Cllr E Woodburn, Corporate Team

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None
Impact on Sustainability	None
Impact on Rural Proofing	None
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	None
Monitoring Officer Comments	No legal comments.
S151 Officer Comments	Confirmed earmarked reserve of £41,691

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision NO