

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**14 MAY 2009**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET DECISION**

**Corporate Management and Finance – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Laing**

**XENTRALL ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009**

1. Summary

Xentrall Shared Services is an innovative public/public partnership between Stockton and Darlington Councils providing ICT, transactional finance and HR and Design and Print services to both Councils. The partnership business case previously approved by Members identified joint savings of £7.4m over 10 years and significant service improvements. The achievements delivered in year one of the Partnership are highlighted in the annual report.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the report be noted.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To allow Members to receive information about the progress of this innovative partnership.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;

- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

**Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**14 MAY 2009**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET DECISION**

**XENTRALL ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009**

**SUMMARY**

Xentrall Shared Services is an innovative public/public partnership between Stockton and Darlington Councils providing ICT, transactional finance and HR and Design and Print services to both Councils. The partnership business case previously approved by Members identified joint savings of £7.4m over 10 years and significant service improvements. The achievements delivered in year one of the Partnership are highlighted in the annual report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the report be noted.

**DETAIL**

1. Stockton and Darlington Councils agreed to establish a shared services partnership to deliver ICT, transactional HR and Finance and Print and Design services. The key aims of the partnership were to improve efficiency, service performance and service resilience by bringing together the services of both Councils. The business case as agreed by both Councils is on line to deliver its targets and already additional benefits beyond those envisaged in the business case are being delivered as the two Councils work closer together, such as the joint development of the customer relationship management system.
2. As part of the governance arrangements of the partnership, the Partnership Consultative Panel, which is made up of the relevant Cabinet Members and Directors from Stockton and Darlington and the Partnership Managers are required to present an annual report to each Council and the first report is attached at **Appendix 1**.
3. The annual report covers progress against the business case and performance in the first year. This partnership is one of the first of its kind in the country and therefore much of what has been achieved is innovative and challenging to deliver and it is a credit to the partnership team that so much has been achieved in the first year of operation. Firm foundations are now in place which will enable the partnership to make progress in delivering the agreed business case leading to efficiencies for the two Councils of £7.4m, alongside opportunities for much greater and wider benefits.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4. The financial implications of the partnership were approved by Members when they approved the business case in November 2007 and are on target. The budget implications are built into the Councils Medium Term Financial Plan.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5. The legal implications of the partnership were reported to Cabinet with the business case in November 2007.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

6. The partnership is categorised as medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

7. The Partnership delivers efficiencies which assist in the retention of the current medium term financial plan. It also responds to the Government's efficiency agenda.

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8. This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment because there are no changes to service delivery or existing strategies.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

9. No specific consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of the report

Julie Danks  
Corporate Director of Resources

**Name of Contact Officer: Susan Reay**  
**Post Title: Xentrall Shared Services Manager**  
**Telephone No. 01642 527018**  
**Email Address:**

### Background Papers

Cabinet report November 2007 including the original business case, a full copy of which is available in the Members' Library and on the intranet.

### Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

### Property

Property matters were dealt with during the setting up of the Partnership.