

Appendices: 0



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

18th September 2017

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Customers and Communities

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| Report Title | Delegation and Appointment to the Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee. |
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Council to delegate the delivery of the Authorities' statutory billing, collection, enforcement and benefits service to the newly formed Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee and
- 1.2 To seek the confirmation from Council to appoint a member of the Council to represent Northampton Borough Council (NBC) on the Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council approves:
- 2.2 The delegation of its statutory billing, collection, enforcement and benefits service to the newly formed Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee and note that this change will be amended in the NBC constitution.
- 2.3 The appointment of Councillor Brandon Eldred, Cabinet Member for Finance to represent the Council on the Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 At the Cabinet Meeting dated 7th December 2016, it was agreed that the Council enter into a new Joint Committee Arrangement.

- 3.1.2 Responsibility for the signing of the agreement was delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance.
- 3.1.3 The Delegation and Joint Committee Agreement has been independently reviewed and the recommendations provided, as part of this review, included as part of the final agreement.
- 3.1.4 The Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee provides that NBC and Milton Keynes Council (MKC) shall appoint one Member each (being elected members of those Councils) as their nominated Members of the Joint Committee. Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) shall appoint one Member who will be either a Member of CCC or a Member of NCC, who is also a Member of the LGSS Joint Committee (The LGSS Member) as their nominated Member of the Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee.
- 3.1.5 The three Members appointed shall have full voting rights.

3.2 Decision details

- 3.2.1 The appointment of Cllr Brandon Eldred, Cabinet Member for Finance as the member of the Council to represent NBC on the Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee.
- 3.2.2 The delegation of the statutory Billing Authority and Administration of Housing Benefit responsibilities which had previously been made to the LGSS Joint Committee to be re-delegated to the new Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 There are no policy implications arising. The Revenues and Benefits services are both statutory services and will continue to be delivered in compliance with legislative requirements.
- 4.1.2 It is a statutory responsibility of NBC to deliver the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates as a billing Authority.
- 4.1.3 In addition NBC has a statutory responsibility for the administration of Housing Benefit.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 An independent financial review was undertaken in relation to the formation of the Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The Council is required to formally appoint members to the Joint Committee to enable full representation and the lawful operation of the Joint Committee.

4.3.2 Independent legal advice has been sought regarding the Partnership Delegation Agreement and the operation of the Joint Committee.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 None

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 None

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

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