



COUNCIL

Wednesday 22 January 2020

UPDATE OF THE ANGLIA REVENUES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. To consider the updated Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) Agreement following the change in ARP Membership pursuant to the abolishment of four member authorities and the creation of two new member authorities in their place on 1 April 2019 and to update other approved changes in the Partnership Agreement.

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| Is the report Open or Exempt? | Open |
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| Wards Affected: | All Wards in the District |
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| Cabinet Member: | Councillor Steve Gallant Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources Councillor Maurice Cook Assistant Cabinet Member for Resources |
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| Supporting Officer: | Nick Khan Strategic Director 01502 523606 nick.khan@eastsoffolk.gov.uk |
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following the exercise of powers by the Secretary of State, with effect from 1 April 2019 two new non-metropolitan districts and councils were established for East Suffolk and West Suffolk respectively and Suffolk Coastal, Waveney District, Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils were abolished. These councils form part of the Anglia Revenues Partnership. Provisions within the Orders and Regulations mean that the ARP could have continued under the existing 2015 agreement, however ARP took the opportunity to update the agreement to reflect the new councils, changes approved since the 2015 agreement was signed and to ensure the agreement remains fit for purpose.
- 1.2 This revised agreement at Appendix A has been reviewed and approved by the ARP Joint Committee (17 December 2019) and now needs to be considered by each individual partner authority to allow the agreement to be signed and sealed by the 5 partners.

Review of Partnership Agreement

- 1.3 Through consultation with the ARP Operational Improvement Board and the ARP Joint Committee, the 2015 ARP Agreement was reviewed and updated to reflect the current ARP operations. The overarching principals of the agreement and the decision making provisions within the agreement will not change. It is recommended the Partnership Agreement is updated:
- to reflect the abolishment of the four councils and the creation of the 2 new councils.
 - to reflect the agreement is now between 5 partners rather than 7.
 - to ensure the agreement reflects any delegations approved by Joint Committee and the partner councils between 2015 and 2020.
 - to allow for some administrative “tidying up” in order to update the budget shares to 2019 approved values, updating to reference GDPR, legislation updates for Joint Committee services and ensuring the ARP Enforcement Agency is now included.

2 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 2.1 ARP delivers revenues and benefits service on behalf of the five partner authorities. Changes to the make up of ARP need to be appropriately reflected in the Partnership Agreement so that it is able to function effectively.
- 2.2 The proper functioning of ARP enables the continued delivery of cost-effective services to the residents and businesses of East Suffolk, improve their quality of life and help deliver a strong and sustainable economy.

3 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A revised partnership agreement clarifies the continuation of arrangements now that the new Councils mergers are complete.
- 3.2 The revised agreement includes the current approved budgets for the partnership.
- 3.3 If there is not agreement between all partners as to the proposed course of action, this could undermine the wider performance and decision making of the partnership.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Operational Improvement Board and Joint Committee (both consisting of representatives from all 5 Councils) have been consulted according to the provisions of the Partnership Agreement prior to approval being sought from the respective authorities.

5 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The revised agreement will meet the requirements of all partner Councils creating a new equitable partnership and ensuring that the Partnership Agreement is up to date.

RECOMMENDATION

That the revised ARP Partnership agreement at Appendix A be approved to have effect from 1 April 2019.

APPENDICES

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| Appendix A | Anglia Revenues Partnership Revised Agreement |
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.