

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Community Safety Committee****31 August 2016****Tayside/Fife Resource Sharing Partnership****Report by Director (Environment)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to sign a Memorandum of Understanding as part of Resource Sharing Partnership. This is to formally agree resource sharing opportunities within the fields of Environmental Health and Trading Standards to establish a straightforward mechanism. It will facilitate the sharing of officer expertise as well as equipment within the participating Local Authorities to promote effective service delivery.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 In 2011, The Christie Commission Report warned of a need for urgent and sustained reform of Scottish Public Services with public spending not predicted to return to 2010 levels until as late as 2027.
- 1.2 The Scottish Government responded by stating that they would reform public services through a number of measures including greater integration at local level via partnership, workforce development and a sharper, more transparent focus on performance, strongly suggesting that public services would have to challenge themselves to work collaboratively.
- 1.3 Formal Resource Sharing opportunities were initially explored in 2013 by Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross Councils with regard to operating Trading Standards and Environmental Health as a shared service.
- 1.4 On a smaller scale, a partnership group to share pooled resource for Contaminated Land resources has been operated jointly by Fife Council, Clackmannanshire Council and Perth and Kinross Council.
- 1.5 It is accepted that although local authority officers carry a wealth of knowledge and experience on a wide variety of subjects, introduction of a Tayside/Fife Resource Sharing Partnership will encourage and develop shared expertise and skills to encompass all aspects of customer requirements. This approach will enhance existing levels of service delivery.
- 1.6 Notwithstanding the benefits of sharing officer resources, there is a significant potential benefit from sharing specialist equipment which is not only expensive to purchase initially, but is also costly to maintain. Sharing specialist equipment within the partnership can reduce equipment costs.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 It is proposed that the partnership works together in a spirit of mutual trust, support and respect, and to ensure that when difficulties or differences of opinion arise they are addressed quickly, honestly and openly and exploit the objectives of the partnership, to promote the sharing of expertise and equipment to generate cost savings for the participating local authorities.
- 2.2 The partnership will be formally administered through SharePoint Online and will meet on a quarterly basis. Decisions affecting the day to day running of the partnership will not be ratified until all members have had the opportunity to comment via SharePoint.
- 2.3 As Local Authority and Category 1 Responders, the member authorities have statutory duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (the Act) and recognise that the Memorandum of Understanding (attached as Appendix 1) does not affect any existing Emergency Plans regarding provision of mutual aid.
- 2.4 This memorandum will not create a partnership in terms of the Partnership Act 1890.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Note the content of the report and the proposed resource sharing potential; and
 - (ii) Agrees the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and commencement of shared service arrangements as required.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Director (Environment)	18 August 2016

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	None
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership (CPP) brings together organisations to plan and deliver services for the people of Perth and Kinross. Together the CPP has developed the Perth and Kinross Community Plan which outlines the key things we think are important for Perth and Kinross:-
- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
 - (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
 - (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
 - (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
 - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for the future
- 1.2 It is considered that the updates contained within this report contribute to all five objectives.

Corporate Plan

- 1.3 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013-2018 outlines the same five Objectives as those detailed above in the Community Plan. These objectives provide a clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resource allocation. It is considered that the updates contained in the report contribute to all five objectives outlined in paragraph 1.1 above.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There are no financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

Workforce

- 2.2 There are no direct workforce implications arising from the updates contained within this report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no land and property, or information technology implications arising from the contents of this report.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.
- 3.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
 - (i) For the purpose of EqIA, the updates are assessed as equally applicable to all.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS). The updates have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.
- 3.5 The updates contained within the report are assessed to have no sustainability related impacts.

Legal and Governance

- 3.6 There are no specific legal and governance issues associated with the updates outlined within the report.

Risk

- 3.7 There are no specific risks associated with the updates outlined within the report.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted to ensure that the Tayside/Fife Resource Sharing Partnership Memorandum of Understanding will not create a partnership in terms of the Partnership Act 1890.

External

- 4.2 No external agencies have been consulted.

5. Communication

- 5.1 None.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2.1 Not applicable.

3. APPENDICES

- 3.1 Tayside and Fife Resource Sharing Partnership - Appendix 1.

