

Part D – Joint and Area Working Arrangements

Section D1:- Joint Working Arrangements

In Part D:-

This Section (D1) explains the types of arrangements the council can enter into with other councils, organisations and people to deliver services together, or for each other. It sets out the key joint arrangements currently in place, what they do and where you can get more information.

Section D2 explains about local area working and the types of local area working arrangements that we have in place.

Part D – Joint and Area Working Arrangements

Section D1:- Joint Working Arrangements

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1 Introduction

Types of Joint Arrangements

- 1.1 Local authorities can establish joint working arrangements with other local authorities, people or organisations. This can happen in a number of different ways. For instance:-
- 1.2 Local authorities can agree that one (or more) authority(ies) will exercise functions on behalf of another (or other) authority(ies). This typically happens when a local authority is particularly well positioned to deliver a certain type of service, so it agrees that it will deliver that service on behalf of another (or other) authority(ies). In this case, the local authority in question will usually delegate its powers to the local authority that is going to deliver the service in question on its behalf.
- 1.3 Local authorities can also agree to exercise their functions jointly. This typically happens where efficiencies can be achieved in delivering services like waste collection or disposal, “back office” IT functions, or highways maintenance. This is usually achieved by establishing a joint committee of Members from all of the participating authorities to manage the functions in question. The participating authorities all then delegate the necessary powers to the joint committee who will make decisions on behalf of them all. This may involve using the officers of one or more of them to deliver services for them all, or jointly entering into contracts with third parties to deliver services for them all.
- 1.4 Local authorities (either alone or with other local authorities) can also do any or all of the following to promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area(s):
 - (a) enter into arrangements or agreements with any person or body
 - (b) co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of, any person or body
 - (c) exercise on behalf of that person or body any functions of that person or body

- 1.5 These sorts of arrangements or agreements can take many different forms and an explanation of them is beyond the scope of this section.
- 1.6 Local authorities can also set up a number of different types organisations such as unincorporated associations, administrative arrangements, partnerships, companies limited by shares, companies limited by guarantees, Teckal complaint companies, community interest companies, industrial and provident societies, community land trusts, charities, trusts, mutual and local asset backed vehicles. An explanation of the scope of all those different types of arrangements is outside the scope of this section.

Establishing Joint Arrangements

- 1.7 The Cabinet (formerly known as the Executive) and Council may enter into any type of joint arrangement in respect of the functions that they are responsible for, subject to:-
- (a) the requirement to act in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework
 - (b) establishing appropriate governance and reporting arrangements
 - (c) observing at all times any legal requirements relating to establishing and operating such arrangements
- 1.8 The Cabinet (formerly known as the Executive) must obtain Council approval before agreeing to exercise functions on behalf of another local authority.
- 1.9 This Section will set out the joint arrangements in place from time to time and where (if necessary) more information on each can be found.

2 Cheshire Pension Fund Committee

- 2.1 The Cheshire Pension Fund is part of a nationwide pension scheme called the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The pension fund administers the LGPS for the local authorities in Cheshire together with a number of other bodies who participate in the fund like colleges, leisure organisations and housing trusts.

- 2.2 The fund is administered by Cheshire West and Chester Council and its Chief Finance Officer is ultimately responsible for its affairs. The Chief Finance Officer has decided to appoint an advisory panel known as the Pension Fund Committee. The panel is convened as necessary by and to advise the Chief Finance Officer on matters relating to the administration of the fund that s/he requires advice on.
- 2.3 Composition and membership of the Pension Fund Committee can be found on the Council's website.
- 2.4 More information about the Cheshire Pension Fund is available at:-
www.cheshirepensionfund.org.uk

3 Shared Services Joint Committee

- 3.1 When the 6 former District Councils and the former Cheshire County Council were re-organised into Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council and Cheshire East Council on 1 April 2009, a number of services were identified as being best delivered jointly by both Councils.
- 3.2 A Joint Committee comprising Members of the Cabinet (formerly known as the Executive) of both Councils was established for the purposes of strategic decision making and to facilitate shared service provision between the two Councils
- 3.3 Composition, Membership and more information about the Committee and Shared Services arrangements can be found on the Council's website.