

STRATA - JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Monday 16 January 2017

Present:-

Councillor Jeremy Christophers (Chair)
Councillors Edwards and Moulding

Non-Voting Members:-

Nicola Bulbeck, Karime Hassan and Mark Williams

Also Present

Chief Operating Officer, Assistant Director Finance, The Teignbridge Strata Director, Programme & Resource Manager, The Strategic Lead for Human Resources, Strategic Lead Finance (EDDC) - Strata Director, Business Development Manager, Infrastructure and Support Manager, Security and Compliance Manager, Document Centre Manager and Democratic Services Manager (Committees)

In attendance

Representative from Devon Audit Partnership

1

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Diviani – Leader - East Devon District Council.

2

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27 September 2016 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

3

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

4

STRATA BUDGET MONITORING DECEMBER 2016/17

The Director (Finance Lead) presented the report advising Members on the financial progress of Strata during the first nine months of 2016-17, including a project outturn assessment against savings agreed in the budget.

Members were advised that at the nine month stage the Board was projecting a revenue saving of about £70,000 against the target of £254,052 in the original business case. At the start of the financial year a revenue saving of only £27,000 was projected due to the approval to move staff to new Strata Terms and Conditions and the main reason that the savings had now increased were that the planned redundancies were now lower than estimated in the Budget.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Part I, Schedule 12A of the Act.

6 **UPDATE ON STRATA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN CREATING A REVISED BUSINESS PLAN 2017/18**

The report of the Chief Operating Officer, Strata and Strata Board was submitted which advised Members of the progress that Strata had made in the Implementation Plan, sought approval for changes to the Business Plan and approval for capital expenditure.

The Chief Operating Officer gave a presentation, Members were updated on the following:-

- Main aims of Strata when it was formed in 2014
- Staff restructure
- New Data Centre
- savings target would now be achieved in year 13
- possible risk of Pension liability
- reduced costs to all Councils
- risk reduction
- increase capacity for change
- main work streams
- infrastructure
- issues with software.

The Director (Finance Lead) advised Members of the revaluation of the Pension fund liability and that Strata had been treated as a high risk although the three Councils had given an undertaking to cover the pension liability. The Board would be looking to challenge the recovery of the deficit over the three years as this had implications for the three Councils.

Members discussed the implications of the revaluation and supported the Board in approaching Devon County Council for a review of the recovery of deficit in the Pensions Fund.

The Chief Operating Officer advised Members that Strata Officers had been working with the software provider to address the bugs that had occurred in the system which had cause a delay in the roll out of the Global desk top.

Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 16 January 2017 (3pm) and Councillor Howe reported that Scrutiny had raised some concerns regarding paying for the maintenance of software when it was still causing issues in the roll out of the Global Desk Top.

RECOMMENDED that the three Councils approve:-

- (1) the Revised Business Plan for Strata;
- (2) the adoption of the revised Business Plan for Strata which includes a revised savings profile; and
- (3) the following additions to their capital programmes to allow the 2017/18 convergence plan and new contact centre software to be delivered

Capital Funding 2017/18 for Software Convergence Plans		
Organisation	Contribution %	Capital Funding
East Devon District Council	36.692	£190,615
Exeter City Council	35.936	£186,687
Teignbridge District Council	27.372	£142,198
Total		£519,500

7

INTERNAL AUDIT OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Teignbridge Strata Director presented the Strata Internal Audit Governance Arrangements 2015/16 report produced by the Devon Audit Partnership.

Members were advised that the Devon Audit Partnership opinion was that the Governance Arrangements were good. The Board would address the actions as identified in the report.

In response to Members, the Teignbridge Strata Director commented that report would be brought to the JSC and JEC regarding the appropriateness and level of reporting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and requested that Strata implement actions as identified.

8

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

As this was Chris Powell's last meeting before his retirement the Committee thanked Chris for his vision in the setting up of Strata and his hard work on the progress that Strata had made. They wished him well for his future.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.15 pm)

Chair