

ANGLIA REVENUES PARTNERSHIP

Report of

To:

Subject: Enforcement Agency.

Purpose: To present a business case for a shared Enforcement Agency Service for the Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP), Waveney District Council (WDC) and Suffolk Coastal district Council (SCDC).

Recommendation(s):

- That the report is noted
- The ARP Joint Committee recommends that Full Council gives the Director of *[insert relevant authority]* in consultation with the *[insert relevant Portfolio Holder title]* delegated authority to introduce a shared Enforcement Agency for the Anglia Revenues Partnership (St. Edmundsbury Borough Council, Forest Heath District Council, Fenland District Council, Breckland Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council) Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council through discussion via the ARP Operational Improvement Board, and detailed in the full business case appraisal presented to the Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The ARP, WDC and SCDC have been working in partnership for over 2 years now and we have successfully set up a single officer core for the 7 Councils which takes affect from the 8th September 2014.

1.1.2 Part 3 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 was introduced in April 2013 which has changed the basis of enforcement fees (previously known as Bailiff Fees) to mean that debtors incur far greater fees if their debts are passed to enforcement agencies; rising from £42.50 after two visits to £310.00 if a first visit is needed.

1.1.3 In October 2013 it was agreed in principle that the 7 partners would like to create an enforcement Agency with the potential to make sure that residents are treated fairly where enforcement is necessary, keeping fees as low as possible, whilst retaining the income generated by Enforcement actions for the Council tax payers of the partner authorities.

1.2 Matters for consideration.

1.2.1 On the 11th September 2014 the ARP Joint Committee considered the full business case for creating a shared Enforcement Agency which offers the potential of a shared income in excess of £150,000 per annum.

1.2.2 A detailed analysis has assessed the potential benefits of a shared in house Enforcement Agency. The business case, presented to the Joint Committee, is deliberately cautious and so the potential income could be significantly greater than forecast.

1.3 Options

- To do nothing.
- To approve the recommendation to give delegated authority to create a shared Enforcement Agency Service

1.4 Reasons for recommendations

A shared Enforcement Agency will offer the following: -

- A shared income of £150,000 per annum from Bailiff fees;
- A management model to offer future potential partners.
- Other benefits such as those detailed in this report

2. IMPLICATIONS

2.1 Risk

The bailiff service could fail to generate the income estimated however, based on the analysis of external bailiff services, the financial risk of making a loss is very low. The assumptions in the business case assume a lower than anticipated income and so there is little risk anticipated.

2.2 Financial

The Enforcement Agency will generate an income for the Partners whilst treating debtors equitably.

2.3 Legal

The Enforcement Agency will need to be set up in accordance with Part 3 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007.

2.4 Equality and Diversity

Not applicable.

Background papers:- None

Lead Contact Officer

Name/Post: Paul Corney (Head of the ARP)

Email: paul.corney@angliarevenues.gov.uk