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## Briefing Note On Local Government North Yorkshire & York Board Shared Service Project

1 March 2011

1. Public authorities in the area predominately provide a whole range of in-house services and support services in line with local choices and priorities. It is recognised that the future financial prognosis means that there is ever greater value in reviewing services and particularly those where there is a scope to share and enjoy economies of scale and/or rationalisation.
2. Public sector organisations in the sub-region have therefore expressed an appetite for sharing some services and this has been ratified by political and managerial leaders through the Local Government North Yorkshire & York Board (LGNYY).
3. As a result, a project has been initiated to undertake the initial stages of the shared services programme. The intention behind the project is to secure significant (and quantifiable) efficiency savings and a sustainable model to share which provides local options (where possible and desirable) and allows for equity of partners whilst having the appropriate amount of governance.
4. The project is being led by a small project team consisting of senior officers representing the council in York and North Yorkshire, and led by the Deputy Chief Executive of Hambleton & Richmondshire District Council. City of York Council's representative on the project team is the interim Head of Strategy, Policy and Performance.
5. Initially, a paper was produced and approved by the Leaders and Chief Executives of the seven District Councils and the County Council, and discussions were held with this Council, the Police, PCT, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and National Parks. To support the process, it has been recognised that particularly in the early stages, external consultancy support to map out the opportunities available to them, will be needed i.e.:
  - To provide an independent challenge to the partners and the project team
  - To facilitate discussions and explorations of shared services opportunities, barriers, concerns and risks with individual partners
  - To develop a challenging but achievable strategic delivery plan for the shared service programme
5. The Consultants have now been appointed. They will develop four business cases covering Economic Development, CCTV, Revenues & Benefits and Access to Public Services in Harrogate. They will set out a range of options (worst, central and best case) for the savings that can be delivered depending on

the approach adopted. One of these options must provide for 25% savings. The business cases will also explore, where appropriate, alternative delivery methods and provide an implementation plan that partners can instigate quickly.

6. Their key milestones for the project are:
  - February 2011 - Prepare initial discussion document 'road map' of potential opportunities and outline scope of business cases
  - Feb/March 2011 - Consult on 'road map' and development of business cases
  - Early April 2011 - Produce interim report providing initial business cases and collated views on emerging 'road map'
  - Early May 2011 - Produce final Strategic Delivery Plan and business cases
  - May/June 2011 - Present findings to LGNY&Y
7. Subject to the above timeframe been achieved, it may be possible to provide a project update at the first meeting of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the new municipal year, on 28 June 2011.

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