

**IMPLEMENTATION EXECUTIVE
29 OCTOBER 2008**

TOWARDS ONE COUNCIL – PROGRESS REPORT

Executive Summary

This report outlines the current level of overall progress in the transition towards One Council.

Current progress is good, and is very much in line with the critical path programme plan. There are no critical issues identified that currently require a member decision at this meeting, other than those tabled elsewhere on the agenda.

Proposal

The following report is to update and there are, therefore, no specific proposals for consideration.

Reasons For Proposals

To provide a strategic overview for the Implementation Executive on progress towards One Council.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Overall, progress towards the Transition to One Council is good. The programme is now in the critical phase in relation to staffing structures and the appointments process and setting the budget for the first year of the new council.
- 1.2. A significant volume of work continues to be undertaken in the five authorities on the transition.

2. Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) - Update

- 2.1. As previously advised to the Implementation Executive, we continue to report progress to the DCLG via a regular update based on the critical path.

3. Parishing of Salisbury

- 3.1. We continue to liaise closely with the DCLG to ensure that, subject to Implementation Executive approval, the Parishing of Salisbury is delivered on the 1st April 2009. It is proposed that this will include the transfer of responsibility for the delivery of some local services, the transfer of appropriate assets and, subject to further staff consultation, the TUPE like transfer of some staff to the new Salisbury City Council.

4. Interim Arrangements for Regulatory Committees

- 4.1. The DCLG has confirmed the requirement for political balance on regulatory committees in the interim period from 1 April 2009 to appointments being made to committees following the election in early June 2009. The Implementation Executive can decide to co-opt existing district council members currently serving on regulatory committees. This will be subject to consideration by the Implementation Executive and a unanimous vote at a future meeting.

5. Key Activity – Update

5.1. Staffing Structures and Appointments Process

- 5.1.1. Service Directors are finalising their preferred staffing structures for 2009/2010. The structures must be affordable and deliver the savings required by the One Council for Wiltshire submission
- 5.1.2. This work will be completed by mid November and the Appointments Procedure approved by the Implementation Executive at its last meeting will be implemented. This activity is also crucial as part of developing and delivering the budget for Wiltshire Council, which will be considered by Implementation Executive at a future meeting.

5.2. Customer Access

- 5.2.1. In relation to customer access, the required 'change of use' planning application for the site adjacent to Penny Farthing House in Salisbury has now been prepared and will be submitted shortly
- 5.2.2. Significant progress has been made with the adoption of a single cash receipting system for the new authority on the 1st April 2009. This will support a consistent approach to on line and telephony payment across the County.

5.3. Communication

- 5.3.1. The branding and strap line for the new council has been agreed and a project group has been established to ensure that the implementation of the branding is delivered by 1 April 2009.
- 5.3.2. A county-wide project plan has been produced to deliver a number of key activities in the transition period. This will include a campaign to continue to raise awareness of the new council and the services it will deliver.