

COUNCIL
26 FEBRUARY 1998

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION - JOINT ARRANGEMENTS
(Chief Executive)

1 INTRODUCTION

Regulations made under the Local Government Reorganisation formally require the Council to:-

- (a) consider a report from the Chief Executive as to whether any functions transferring to the Council on 1st April 1998 "could with advantage be discharged by, or jointly with, any other local authority", and
- (b) if any such joint arrangements would be advantageous, to "promote the making of such arrangements"

2 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

2.1 Legal Powers

This report is required by the Local Government Changes for England (Miscellaneous Provision) Regulations 1995.

Legal powers to enter into agreements for joint arrangements are conferred by Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 20 of the Local Government Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970.

Draft agreements for most of the proposed joint arrangements have been prepared. However, a considerable amount of work remains to be done before the reorganisation date to conclude agreements in satisfactory form.

2.2 Finance

The joint arrangement agreements cover the method of costing of the service and the basis for sharing these costs between participating authorities.

The 1998/99 budget includes for the cost of delivering services through these joint arrangements and where there are increased costs these must be contained within the relevant committee's overall budget.

3 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:-

- (i) the Council confirms that the services identified in the appendix to this report could be discharged advantageously with other Berkshire local authorities, and**

(ii) that agreements for joint arrangements be entered into as authorised by service committees

3 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 In recent months programme committees have received a number of reports setting out proposals for joint arrangements between Berkshire unitary authorities for some of those services which are currently County functions
- 3.2 The major services proposed to be provided under joint arrangements are identified in the appendix to this report, together with the prospective lead authority. Although the majority of the services fall within the ambit of a programme committee there are some (identified in the appendix as "Other Services") which are essentially of a central service nature. Members may feel that it would be appropriate for the Finance & Property Sub-Committee to be designated as the "home committee" for monitoring those agreements (with the possible exception of the Berks & Bucks Enterprise Agency agreement) but that is a matter which can be addressed in the terms of reference of committees.
- 3.3 The initial period for most of the joint arrangements will be two years but the agreements for child care legal services and the Berks and Bucks Enterprise Agency will extend to three years. The agreement for management of the London Road landfill site will remain in force until such time as the property may be disposed of. The agreements as currently drafted do not attempt to prescribe what arrangements should be put in place upon the expiration of the joint arrangement. It is quite possible that some of the joint arrangements will continue, albeit with a reduction in the number of unitary authorities participating, but there will undoubtedly be a number of services which unitary authorities will wish to provide individually when the joint arrangement agreement expires.
- 3.4 In addition to the services provisionally agreed to be provided on a joint basis by some or all of the unitary authorities, agreements will also need to be put in place for managing those contracts entered into by the County Council which extend beyond the reorganisation date (the waste disposal contracts, including that for the BERIS facility in Reading, the WAN/DYNIX agreement Berkshire Young Musicians Trust and UTC/SCOOT are examples of such contracts). The most important of such agreements is the BAPTIE contract, but there are a host of other County contracts extending beyond the reorganisation date. Proposals for the management of such contracts will be reported direct to programme committees.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for Further Information

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APPENDIX

SOCIAL SERVICES

SERVICE

Emergency Duty Team
Child Care Legal Services
Training Consortium
Guardian Ad Litem and Reporting
Officer Service
Registration and Inspection Unit
Sensory Needs Services
Adoption Advisory Service
Berkability
(purchasing arrangement for
equipment to meet needs of elderly
and disabled persons)
CASCADE

LEAD AUTHORITY

Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Reading Borough Council
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
West Berkshire District Council
(Newbury DC)
West Berkshire District Council (Newbury DC)
Wokingham District Council
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Reading Borough Council

Slough Borough Council

LEISURE

Mobile Libraries (East Berkshire)
Library Transport

WAN/DYNIX
(I.T. system to facilitate
exchange of books between libraries)
Music & Drama Library
Archives Management

Slough Borough Council
West Berkshire District Council
(Newbury D.C.)
Royal Borough of Windsor &
Maidenhead

Reading Borough Council
Reading Borough Council

EDUCATION

Education Library Service
Museums Loan Service for Schools
Berkshire Young Musicians Trust
Travellers Education

Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Reading Borough Council
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Wokingham District Council

PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

BERIS
Waste Disposal Contracts
East Berkshire Coroners Service
Environmental Awards
Winter Maintenance Forecasting

London Road Landfill Site

Reading Borough Council
Various
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Slough Borough Council
West Berkshire District Council
(Newbury D.C.)
Bracknell Forest Borough Council

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Joint Planning Committee
UTC/SCOOT
(Computerised traffic management
system)

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Reading Borough Council

OTHER SERVICES

Modern Records Store
Rent Officer
Lord Lieutenancy
Insurance Liabilities
Berks & Bucks Enterprise Agency

Reading Borough Council
Reading Borough Council
Reading Borough Council
Reading Borough Council
Reading Borough Council