A Partnership Approach in Designing the Future of our Local Services

Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

11th May 2016

George Candler, Director of Commissioning

Overview of our approach

- Continuation of Shropshire Council's locality commissioning activity
- Need for robust programme management – complex planning
- Lead officers in place – both in towns and for local services
- Key area of work for the Community Enablement Team
- Starting discussions with town and parish councils, voluntary and community sector, 'Friends of' groups
- Creating resource packs that contain the information needed for discussions and decision making
- Getting out and having these discussions

Financial implications

- An indicative Place Based Budgets spreadsheet, breaking down the locality based at-risk activity and the costs of these is attached to the report

- The totality of Shropshire Council's current controllable spend over these services - excluding the cost of highway and environmental maintenance activity delivered by Ringway – is in the region of £5m

Possible alternative funding solutions for local services

- town and parish councils increasing their precept to raise additional income- particularly as they are not subject to the same cap as Shropshire Council

- generating income from assets and services in new and innovative ways

- partnership working to share resources, skills and costs

Update on progress so far

- The report describes the type of conversations that are taking place with different organisations in different places:

  larger town councils

  other organisations

  parish councils

  groups of town and parish councils

- A detailed update of progress with discussions is attached
  to the report

Examples of communities seeking new solutions

- Local communities are working together with the aim of creating local services that are sustainable without Shropshire Council funding in Pontesbury and Gobowen

- Their library services have previously been identified as being at risk of closure as part of the existing budget reductions the council's library service has to make.

- Both parish councils are making a contribution towards the running costs of the library in 2016/17 and are working in partnership with other local organisations, the Friends of the Library group and surrounding parish councils to design new ways for the library buildings to be used and the service delivered, and to generate more income that will ensure the sustainability of the service.

- This work is supported by the Area Librarians, the local CEOs and has received expert advice from Locality.

Decommissioning of services

- The decommissioning of services is a real option if new solutions for services cannot be found by September 2016

- The council has a decommissioning approach in place (information attached to the report)

Roles and responsibilities

- Geographic lead officers – market town discussions
- Community Enablement Team – supporting lead officers and parish council discussions
- Service lead officers
- Support from Finance, Property Services, Legal, HR
- Programme lead
- Reporting to the Director of Commissioning

Information provided to Partners

- details of lead officers and (S)CEOs
- precept calculation i.e. impact on town/parish council precept if it was used to fund local services
- summary of each asset and service in scope
- financial information relating to the delivery of each service
- ownership details of assets
- how services are currently delivered
- existing contracts and any Service Local Agreements
- any potential TUPE responsibilities

Engagement approaches

- Informal engagement – conversations with town and parish councils, soft market testing, community conversations

- Formal consultation on proposed new solutions

Key areas of importance identified so far

- Shropshire Council's statutory duties in the delivery of services

- External funding or contractual obligations

- The challenging timeline

Key areas of importance identified so far

- Potential for differing provision of services

- Capacity building support

- Organisations working in partnership

Any questions?