

Report of the Head of Partnership

Extension of Devon Audit Partnership and amendment to the Partnership Agreement to permit other bodies to join.

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to confirmation by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation:

- i That the Committee notes that the Partnership Agreement has been extended for a further three years from April 2014 until end of March 2017.
- ii That the Committee notes that the Partnership Agreement has been updated to permit other public sector bodies to join.

- 1 In February 2014 the Partnership Committee received a report recommending that the Partnership be extended for a further three years and that the Partnership agreement be varied to enable other public sector bodies to join the Partnership if this was deemed appropriate.
- 2 The report highlighted the good performance of the Partnership in its first five years and how it had achieved the original objectives set for it.
- 3 The report proposed that the Partnership be extended for a further 3 years (from April 2014 to March 2017) and that a Deed of Variation be agreed between the Partners to permit this. This Deed of Variation has now been prepared. It recognises the continuing financial crisis affecting the public sector, and reflects that values paid to the Partnership will reduce by 10% in each of the next 3 years.
- 4 The report further proposed extending the Partnership by admitting the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall (OPCC). The Deed of Variation states the "OPCC shall be entitled to appoint a co-opted non-voting member to the Partnership" It is important to note that the Police have become a non-voting member of the Partnership. (For purposes of this agreement the OPCC shall act for and on behalf of the Constabulary and OPCC).
- 6 It is considered that the OPCC joining as a partner will enable DAP to widen horizons and become a "public sector" internal audit provider and not just deliver within local government.
- 7 The Deed of Variation also contained changes to enable additional Councils and other public bodies to join the Partnership. The Deed referred to "the decision to allow another council to join or other public body to participate in the Partnership shall require the unanimous approval of DCC, PCC and TC both on the Management Board and the Partnership".
- 8 The Deed also adjusted the meeting cycle of the Partnership, so that one meeting would take place in June of each year to enable the Accounts to be received, and the Small Bodies Return to be signed.

- 9 We are pleased to report that the Deed of Variation was approved by each of the Partners through each partner's democratic process. No issues or concerns were raised about the proposal and all of the above proposals are now effective.

Mary Davis
Electoral Divisions: All
Local Government Act 1972

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Background Paper: None