

## **PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT AND WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCILS**

### **Report of the Head of Devon Audit Partnership**

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| Please note that the following recommendations are subject to confirmation by the Committee before taking effect. |
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#### **Recommendation:**

- i. That the Committee notes and agrees to both South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council becoming a non-voting partner of the Partnership with effect from April 2019.**

1. We have been working with South Hams District and West Devon Borough councils since 2014 and have been managing both councils internal audit function since October of that year. The councils have a shared staffing structure, and this includes two Internal Auditors employed by the councils; our role currently involves managing both of these staff members to ensure that the internal audit plans are completed professionally and effectively.
2. Subject to approval by this committee, we would look to invite South Hams and West Devon councils to join DAP. In the first instance the intention is that both councils will join as "non-voting" partners, but we would like the option to be open for them to join as "full" partners should that be desirable. "Non-voting" status means that both councils will be invited to attend the DAP Management Board and to send two representatives to the DAP Partnership Committee; however neither council will be able to vote on key decisions. In reality, the number of decisions that are voted on are small, but include the annual budget and accounts, and the admittance of new partners. The two Internal Auditors employed by the councils will remain to be employed by them, but DAP will continue with the responsibility of managing these staff to complete the internal audit plans
3. The monetary values involved are commercially sensitive, but South Hams and West Devon councils will represent valuable partners for the Partnership and we would welcome their involvement.
4. Papers will be prepared and presented to the Audit Committee of South Hams District Council (21 March 2019) and West Devon Borough Council (12 March 2019) to seek the endorsement of both committees to join the partnership. Legal agreements are in the process of being prepared to aid in the process.

5. Should all the relevant committees agree to the proposal then we would look for a 1/4/19 start date, although this may require some flexibility to take account of the preparation/ signing of legal agreements.

Robert Hutchins

Electoral Divisions: All  
Local Government Act 1972

List of Background Papers

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| <u>Background Paper</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>File Ref</u> |
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Nil

There are no equality issues associated with this report