

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Executive Decision Record**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member – Environment and Transport
<b>Date:</b>	24 July 2012
<b>Title:</b>	Flood & Water Management Act 2010 Shared Service Arrangements
<b>Reference:</b>	3993
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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**1. The decision:**

- (a) That the proposal to set up shared services arrangements as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this report, to support the discharge of new functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 be approved.
- (b) That a Shared Services Agreement for the respective Joint Discharge of Functions for Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council be developed, and finalising of the legal framework be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.
- (c) That the shared service arrangement be open to and offered to other Hampshire Local Authorities, and that legal agreements be entered into by Hampshire County Council as required in its capacity as lead authority under the Shared Services Agreement.
- (d) That a further report be brought to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport in 2014 to confirm the arrangements in place are the best approach to expedite the duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

**2. Reason for the decision:**

- 2.1. Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council are party to new statutory duties in relation to the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010 (FWMA). Both parties recognise that combining to jointly discharge certain functions under a shared services arrangement has the potential to make a significant contribution towards their obligations under the FWMA. These include the duty for flood risk management authorities to co-operate as set out in the Act, which it is hoped can be capitalised upon in the ongoing search for service improvements and the delivery of efficiency savings.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 3.1. To employ consultants to discharge this function. This would not be cost effective in the longer term, nor would it enable the skills and capacity to be retained and developed within the public sector.
- 3.2. To secure agency arrangements with District Authorities to discharge these functions. A Hampshire-wide skills audit of all Local Authorities (2011) has found that technical skills to deliver the broad duties and functions of the FWMA , in particular the Sustainable Drainage Systems design and assessment are scarce; and capacity within those service areas is not available to deliver the anticipated demand.
- 3.3. To set up a specialist internal team within the County Council. Currently technical skills combined with capacity to deliver this function are not freely available within the County Council. The recruitment and management support of additional staff would not prove as cost effective as drawing on skills currently available and held by New Forest District Council; nor would it deliver the efficiency savings offered by a shared service arrangement.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel:** None.

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent:** Not applicable.

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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<b>Executive Member for Environment and Transport Councillor M J Kendal</b>	

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