

JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

This section sets out the joint arrangements the Council has entered into with other local authorities, and is divided into the following parts:-

- Joint Committees
- Shared Services with Redditch Borough Council
- Other arrangements.

1. Joint Committees

a. WETT Regulatory Joint Committee

A joint committee has been established of the executives of this Council, Bromsgrove District Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council, Worcestershire County Council, Wychavon District Council, and Wyre Forest District Council.

The joint committee has provision to operate and manage Worcestershire Regulatory Services. The Council has delegated to the Joint Committee the functions set out in Table 1 below.

The Council has delegated to the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Service the discharge of functions set out in Part 2 of the Officers' Scheme of Delegation for Regulatory Services.

2. Shared Services with Bromsgrove District Council

In 2009 the Council agreed to the appointment of a shared Chief Executive with Bromsgrove District Council. In 2010 a shared management team for both Councils was appointed. The two councils have agreed to work together to deliver services jointly across both Councils. The co-operation between the two Councils on sharing services is reflected by a legal agreement referred to as the Overarching Framework Agreement.

As each Council continues to be independent politically, the Scheme of Delegations for Redditch Borough Council, delegates the responsibility for making decisions from the Redditch Executive and Council to the relevant Committees and officers. Under the terms of the Overarching Framework Agreement, the officers may be employed by either RBC or BDC, but this does not affect their ability to carry out functions delegated to them under the Redditch Borough Council Constitution.

The specific legislation which underpins these arrangements is set out in the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000.

Under section 113 of the Local Government Act 2000, a local authority may enter into an agreement with another local authority for the placing at the disposal of the latter authority the services of staff employed by the former authority. Under section 101 of the Local Government Act 2000 a local

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authority may arrange for the discharge of its functions by any other local authority. This principle is further expanded in sections 19 and 20 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2000.

The staffing arrangements for the shared management team have been established under section 113 of the Local Government Act with each authority placing its employees at the disposal of the other. As shared services are introduced across the Council department by department, a host authority for each department will be identified. Staff will be transferred under TUPE to the host or receiving authority, and will carry out the functions of the delegating authority in accordance with section 101 of the Local Government Act.

3. Other arrangements

The Council has agreed to enter into other arrangements for sharing services with local authorities. These are summarised below:-

a. Internal Audit Services

The Council has agreed to enter into arrangements with Bromsgrove District Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council, and Wychavon District Council for the authorities to collaborate and provide one shared Internal Audit Service for all the authorities.

The service is hosted by Worcester City Council and is regulated by a formal agreement.

b. Payroll Service

The Council has agreed to enter into arrangements with Bromsgrove District Council and Wyre Forest District Council for Redditch Borough Council to provide the payroll service for all three Districts.

The arrangement is regulated by a formal agreement.

c. Assets Management Service

The Council has agreed to enter into an arrangement with Worcestershire County Council for the County Council to provide an Assets Management Service for the Council. The arrangement is regulated by a formal agreement between the two authorities.