

Central Bedfordshire Council

Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee

25 October 2016

Shared Legal Service – Operations Update

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Purpose of this report

To update the Committee on the first 6 months operation of the Shared Legal Service

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to

1. Consider and comment upon the implications of the new service delivery model in light of progress against key indicators.

Issues

1. None

Options for consideration

2. As part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, the authority committed to introduce a new operating model for Legal Services.
3. Following a procurement exercise which involved three potential providers of the service, the Council entered into a new arrangement with LGSS Law on March 1st 2016.
4. This arrangement is designed to ensure the Council has continuity in its well established relationships with the former legal team, whilst also benefiting from access to a wider pool of professionals and generating efficiency savings.
5. The attached presentation presents an update for Members on the Council's progress with the new service including:

- An explanation of the new operating model
- An account of performance to date in relation to efficiency savings, customer satisfaction and staff experience
- Plans and ambitions for the future.

Reason/s for decision

To provide the Committee with an update as requested at a previous meeting.

Council Priorities

Good quality and cost effective Legal advice is a critical corporate service on which the Council is dependent. It is, therefore, fundamental to the Council's delivery of all of its priorities and this report provides Members with an opportunity to critically review its performance to date.

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

6. None

Financial Implications

7. The introduction of the new service was predicted to generate an efficiency saving of £225k, based on a 10% reduction in operating costs. This saving has been built into the Medium Term Financial Plan and its achievement is monitored on a monthly basis.

Equalities Implications

8. None. No Decision required.

Conclusion and next Steps

9. The Shared Legal Service target operating model has been implemented effectively and compliantly on the schedule start date of 01.04.16.
10. Operational issues arising from the implementation of new working systems have been resolved and the service has moved into a Business As Usual (BAU) state.

Appendices

The following Appendix is attached.

Update Presentation (ppt).

Background Papers - None