

SHADOW EXECUTIVE
28 October 2008

SUBJECT	Implementation Plan Monitoring Report To report on overall progress following the adoption of the Implementation Plan by Shadow Executive on 10 June 2008.
REPORT OF	Officer Programme Board
<i>Contact Officer: Simon Redmore (01462 611255)</i>	

IMPLICATIONS

SUSTAINABILITY	None arising from this report.
FINANCIAL	As at 7 October £3.9m has been committed against the transitional budget of £18.2m.
LEGAL	The Shadow Authority is required by the Implementation Order to prepare, keep under review, and revise as necessary, an Implementation Plan.
PERSONNEL/EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES	None arising from this report
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/SAFETY	None arising from this report
TRADES UNIONS	None arising from this report
HUMAN RIGHTS	None arising from this report
KEY ISSUE	No
BUDGET/POLICY FRAMEWORK	No

OTHER DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO REPORT "Implementation Plan and Risk Analysis", Item L2, Shadow Executive, 10 June 2008

RECOMMENDATION: That a further report on ICT related matters be made to the next meeting of the Shadow Executive. <i>Reason for Recommendation: So that Shadow Executive can monitor progress and comply with the requirement of the Implementation Order regarding the need to maintain an implementation plan to deliver the new unitary authority.</i>

Background

1. This is the fifth progress report to Shadow Executive since the Implementation Plan was agreed at the meeting on 10 June. The report follows the previously used format.

2. The Implementation Plan has continued to be used at the monthly meeting with DCLG officials to report on progress and updates have been considered by the meetings of the Central Bedfordshire Implementation Team which includes key partners.

Overall Progress and Variances

3. As Members may be aware a visit by the Local Government Minister, John Healey, scheduled for 7 October was rearranged to 21 October. The Minister’s meeting with stakeholders did, however, take place on the 7th. Feedback from attendees and CLG officials has been very positive. The Chief Executive of Aragon Housing Association, who was present, has said that the approach being followed to create Central Bedfordshire “was praised by all concerned for the way it is involving stakeholders in the formation of the new council”.
4. A copy of the latest Implementation Plan is copied at Appendix “A” and shows which targets are completed, on track, at risk, or delayed.
5. A major achievement since the last monitoring report has been reaching agreement at officer level with Bedford Borough on transitional service arrangements. The Implementation Plan targeted the completion of this work for the end of July. The next step is for the Interim Chief Executive to consult the Leader, Deputy Leader, relevant portfolio holder and Lead Member of the relevant Transitional Task Force as required by the Shadow Executive when it met in June (minute SE/07/11).
6. The current position regarding exceptions shown on the plan is as follows:

Milestone	Proposed Action
Line 24 – second draft business plans	The only plan outstanding at the time of writing is HR. That plan is due to be drafted by the time this agenda is circulated
Line 35 – ICT systems and infrastructure	See paragraph 9 below and supplementary report from Deloitte due to follow circulation of this agenda.
Line 39 – staff sounding board	A delay in finalising the proposed disaggregation of County Council staff (see line 45 below) means that setting up the sounding board has also been delayed.
Line 42 – appoint Directors and Heads of Service	The later than targeted appointment of the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing meant that interviews for Heads of Service in that Directorate had to held back. The last internal interview is now scheduled for 31 October.

Line 45 – employee structures	The second phase of the disaggregation of County Council staff is late because one of the County Directorates has chosen to adopt a different approach to disaggregation. The matter is being pursued at Chief Executive level and an oral update will be given at the meeting.
Line 56 – business harmonisation	The work has been completed at headline level but due to an increase in the scope of the project the final report is delayed. This is not a cause for concern.
Line 63 – government regulations on planning	CLG expected to make the order by the middle of October; confirmation is awaited.
Line 64 – government regulations on LAAs / governance	CLG expected to make the order by the middle of October; confirmation is awaited.

Expenditure on Creating Central Bedfordshire

7. All expenditure on the transition to Central Bedfordshire is managed centrally. The table below shows the transitional budget breakdown included in the December 2007 submission and commitments as at 7 October against that budget. As reported to the last meeting, expenditure on change management has exceeded the amount identified for this element of the cost of transition. Officers will continue to keep expenditure within the overall total of £18.2m under review in order to contain costs within the amount budgeted.

Budget Monitoring to 7 October 2008 (Against Transitional Budget)			
Budget £m	Element	Spend (£s inc. Commitments to 31/03/09)	Remaining (£s)
0.50	Accommodation	135,465	364,535
0.90	Change management	1,420,351	-520,351
0.10	Miscellaneous	49,552	50,448
0.70	Contract novation	0	700,000
4.80	I.T.	1,841,807	2,958,193
0.50	Training	10,492	489,508
0.20	Communications / branding	82,981	117,019
0.70	Elections / democracy	86,925	613,075
0.30	Recruitment	250,000	50,000
0.60	Relocation	0	600,000
5.20	Early retirement	0	5,200,000
2.20	Redundancy	0	2,200,000
1.50	Closedown	0	1,500,000
18.20		3,877,573	14,322,427

ICT Transition Issues

8. The meeting of Shadow Executive on 30 September heard an oral report from Deloitte about the outcome of an officer workshop held on 29 September. The workshop had considered how best to deal with the children's and adult electronic records currently used by Bedfordshire County Council. Deloitte have prepared a subsequent note which is attached at Appendix "B".
9. That meeting of the Shadow Executive also requested that a more detailed report on ICT transition issues be made to this meeting. Deloitte are currently preparing the report and officers hope to be in a position to circulate it on Friday 24 October. In the meantime the portfolio holder is being kept informed about its likely contents.

Background Papers: None specific
Location of Papers: Deputy Chief Executive's office, Priory House, Shefford.
File Reference: CG3