

Somerset West and Taunton

Scrutiny Committee – 17th July 2019

SHAPE Legal End of Year Report – Year 4

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor for Corporate Resources

Report Author: Christine Fraser, Head of Performance and Governance

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

To present the Committee with the SHAPE Legal end of year report – year 4.

2 Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. Notes the report and progress made to date
2. Endorses the development of growth and marketing plans that include promotional activities, identifying new clients and exploring opportunities for income generation
3. Notes that a review and recast of the partnership will take place before the end of the financial year to ensure that the partnership continues to support the strategic direction of the Council moving forward

3 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 Failure to have adequate and appropriate legal provision puts the Council at risk of acting unlawfully or being subject to legal challenge.

4 Background and Full details of the Report

4.1 The SHAPE Legal Law and Governance Partnership is now in the fifth year of its 5-year business plan. Mendip District Council continues to maintain its “host authority” status within the Partnership and satellite offices continue to be maintained within their partners’ premises at Deane House and West Somerset House for Somerset West and Taunton Council. Law and Governance staff work across the partnership offices as required by the work.

4.2 It is to be noted that work profiles have changes and may continue to do so as a result of many factors influencing the strategic direction of travel of the partners, namely but not limited to:

- The coming into being of Somerset West and Taunton Council to replace Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC) and West Somerset Council (WSC)
- The Local Government elections at the beginning of May 2019

- The more commercial approach being taken in relation to corporate assets, and
- The transformation agenda of the individual partners

4.3 Key achievements to date include:

- Supporting TDBC and WSC to enable these partners to be stood down on the 31st March 2019 and for the new authority, Somerset West and Taunton Council to stand in their place on the 1st April 2019
- Continued support to our partners in major projects/initiatives
- Supporting all partners in preparation for General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- Expanding our customer base and the variety of work commissioned

4.4 Key priorities for the next 12 months include:

- Continued support for the new Authority
- Commissioning a client satisfaction survey
- To work with the Assets Team at Somerset West and Taunton to streamline the commissioning of work and processes thereafter
- Implementing a growth and marketing plan
- Reviewing and recasting the partnership so that it continues to support the strategic direction of the partner authorities moving forward

4.5 Section 2 of this report sets out three recommendations. A review of the Partnership will commence shortly to ensure that the future arrangements provide the support needed by the Council and gives taxpayers good value for money. The review will be carried out by the Head of Performance and Governance and the Governance Manager in conjunction with SHAPE Legal

5 Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities

5.1 Having an effective and efficient Legal Service is a fundamental element of being a 'well managed' council. This also enables key corporate projects to be delivered.

6 Finance / Resource Implications

6.1 The budget for the Partnership has already been set for 2019/20. Any changes to the Partnership for 2020/21 onwards will be factored into the budget setting process

7 Legal Implications

7.1 Failure to have adequate and appropriate legal provision puts the Council at risk of acting unlawfully or being subject to legal challenge.

8 Environmental Impact Implications (if any)

8.1 None arising from this report

9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications (if any)

9.1 None arising from this report

10 Equality and Diversity Implications (if any)

10.1 None arising from this report

11 Social Value Implications (if any)

11.1 None arising from this report

12 Partnership Implications (if any)

12.1 None arising from this report

13 Health and Wellbeing Implications (if any)

13.1 None arising from this report

14 Asset Management Implications (if any)

14.1 None arising from this report

15 Data Protection Implications (if any)

15.1 None arising from this report

16 Consultation Implications (if any)

16.1 None arising from this report

Democratic Path:

- **Scrutiny Committee – Yes**
- **Cabinet/Executive – No**
- **Full Council – No**

Reporting Frequency: Annually

List of Appendices (delete if not applicable)

Appendix A	SHAPE Legal Year End Report – Year 4
------------	--------------------------------------

Contact Officers

Name	Amy Tregellas, Governance Manager
Direct Dial	01823 785034
Email	a.tregellas@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk