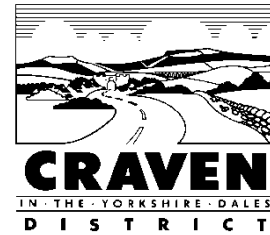


Policy Committee – 18 July 2017

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Partnership – One Public Estate Services & Assets Delivery Plan



Report of Director of Services

Ward(s) affected: All wards

Lead Member: Cllr R Foster (Housing)

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the One Public Estate project and seek Member approval to join the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Partnership's One Public Estate Programme.

2 Recommendations

Members are recommended to:-

- 2.1 Approve the Council to join West Yorkshire Combined Authority Partnership's One Public Estate Programme.

3 Background

- 3.1 The One Public Estate (OPE) programme is a pioneering initiative funded by the Cabinet Office Government Property Unit and delivered on their behalf by the Local Government Association.
- 3.2 The initiative is designed to facilitate and enable local authorities to work successfully with central government and local agencies on public property and land issues through sharing and collaboration. It has four main objectives.
 - Create economic growth – to enable released land and property to be used to stimulate economic growth, regeneration, new housing and jobs
 - Generate capital receipts from the sale of redundant land and property
 - Reduce running costs of central and local government assets

AGENDA ITEM 7

- Deliver more integrated and customer focussed services – to encourage publically funded services to co-locate, to demonstrate service efficiencies and work towards a more customer focused service delivery.

3.3 West Yorkshire Combined Authority Partnership (WYCAP) is taking part in the OPE scheme and provide strategic leadership on joint asset projects and programmes from inception through to development and delivery on four key themes of;

- Asset Management
- Co Location and transformation
- Health and Social Care Integration
- Housing and Regeneration

3.4 WYCAP have already successfully co-ordinated public sector partners to deliver growth. For example in Leeds the City Council has worked with West Yorkshire Police to help relocate their divisional HQ from the city centre to a new edge of town site, freeing up space for city centre regeneration.

3.5 Other public sector partners, including Craven District Council are now being invited to join their OPE scheme and whilst economic growth opportunities will be on a smaller scale than those achieved in Leeds there may still be opportunities for Craven district by bringing together public sector assets in the area.

4 Next Steps

4.1 If the Council wishes to sign up to the OPE the first step is to undertake a data gathering exercise across all public sector partners in Craven. This will be facilitated by WYCAP using an electronic property information mapping system. (ePIMS)

4.2 Epims is a central government property tool used by the public sector to support the better management of land and property assets to enable wider public sector working and reduce in house costs of establishing bespoke property software systems.

4.3 Once the information is uploaded Craven District will benefit from being able to access partner data to support the identification of collaboration opportunities across the district.

4.4 Central Government Funding is then available to fund capacity projects to drive and co-ordinate OPE opportunities.

5 Benefits to Craven District Council

5.1 The Council because it lacks in capacity and capability in general is looking at various routes to support the delivery of the Council Plan, this is one such route that may provide an alternative means to success.

5.2 What can be achieved is quite significant. Options and approaches can be scaled up and looked at regionally rather than just locally. Regional strategies and standards can be developed and implemented that will carry more influence. Improved data management and asset management will evolve by having access to more readily available data.

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- 5.3 The Council currently cannot do somethings on our own because we are small-scale. The regional approach will provide opportunities to rationalize and optimize assets, and to consider wider co-location themes. It will improve integrated working across the services and improve the outcomes received by the actual service users.
- 5.4 Access to funding will also improve; in particular the partnership working arrangement with the Homes & Communities Agency will enhance the Council's ability to justify funds for local housing projects. Partnership relationships with Local Authority planning departments has already been improved by the regional approach by the members already signed up to the OPE. It is also anticipated that the regional approach to asset rationalization and optimization may drive higher land and property values.
- 5.5 The Council will gain significantly from sharing best practice, learning across the partnership, sharing ideas and skills, standardizing information, and working together in partnership.
- 5.6 An example opportunity to utilize the OPE approach within Craven is the bigger picture in Settle. Bringing together the National Health Service, North Yorkshire County Council and Craven District Council in partnership with the joint objective to rationalize and optimize the existing local facilities that are currently quite fragmented could provide the opportunity to centralize the health facilities and exploit vacated assets for alternative value and use. Attracting local organizational participation has proved difficult for the Council whereas the influence of the wider region may have more influence.
- 5.7 The first step however on joining the OPE scheme would be to map public sector assets across Craven. This will allow for any opportunities to be identified.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 At this stage there are no financial implications to report.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 At this stage there are no legal implications to report.

8 Contributions to Corporate Priorities

- 8.1 The proposals in this report support the Council priorities of "Financial Resilience".

9 Author of the Report

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