

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	GLT	Date:	20th November 2012
	Audit & Governance Committee		26th November 2012
Subject:	Local Pooling of Business Rates - Proposed Governance Arrangements		
Report Of:	Corporate Director of Resources		
Wards Affected:	N/A		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Peter Gillett, Corporate Director of Resources		
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Appendices:	A: Report to Full Council 27th September 2012		
	B: Proposed Governance Arrangements		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide members of the Audit and Governance Committee with the final governance arrangements for the operation of the proposed county-wide business rates pool which have been submitted to central government for approval.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Audit & Governance Committee is asked to **NOTE** the proposed governance arrangements attached at Appendix B.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Members will recall the meeting of full council on 27th September where approval was given in principle to be part of a Gloucestershire Business Rates Pool, subject to a thorough assessment of risks/rewards and agreement on satisfactory governance arrangements. With delegated authority given to the Chief Executive and Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to finalise those arrangements. A copy of the report for full council is attached as Appendix A.
- 3.2 Since the meeting, the proposed governance arrangements have been finalised and agreed by each of the six District Councils and the County Council. This sign-off has been made by each council's Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer. The proposed arrangements have also been agreed by *Leadership Gloucestershire*, the forum that includes Leaders from each of the Councils. A copy of the proposed governance arrangements are attached at Appendix B.

4.0 Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 Full Council requested that an information report was sent to the Audit and Governance Committee, for noting.

5.0 Future Work

5.1 The governance arrangements have been submitted for approval by CLG and feedback is currently awaited on the proposals.

5.2 Stroud District Council have been identified as the administering council to operate the county-wide pool.

5.3 The final decision on membership of the pool may still be subject to detail emerging from the Local Government Finance Settlement, which is expected to be announced in early December 2012. A cooling-off period has been built into the government's timetable to allow councils to finalise their decision in the light of the settlement announcement.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 Covered in the report – particularly Appendix A – report to full council on 27th September 2012.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 Covered in the report - particularly Appendix A – report to full council on 27th September 2012.

8.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

8.1 Covered in the report - particularly Appendix A – report to full council on 27th September 2012.

9.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

9.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

10.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

10.1 There are no community safety implications arising out of this report.

Sustainability

10.2 There are no sustainability implications arising out of this report.

Staffing & Trade Union

10.3 There are no staffing and Trade Union implications arising out of this report.

Background Documents:

Appendix A: Report to Full Council 27th September 2012

DCLG Business Rates Retention Scheme Pooling Prospectus, July 2012:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/2182704.pdf>

DCLG Business Rates Retention Technical Consultation, July 2012:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/21825021.pdf>