

STOUR VALLEY AND POOLE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE



Report subject	Dissolution of Stour Valley and Poole Partnership and transfer of functions to BCP Council and Dorset Council
Meeting date	23 May 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	To acknowledge the timetable for the dissolution of SVPP by 31 March 2023
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) in accordance with the Collaboration Agreement of 1 April 2014 and the Letter of Agreement of 30 March 2022 the SVPP be dissolved as of 31 March 2023 (b) the SVPP Transfer of Functions Plan agreed by SVPP Board on 10 May be duly updated and reviewed to dissolve the Partnership (c) through the transfer of functions the Partner Council contributions to the SVPP Budget will be adjusted to reflect services returning to each Council and that this process may result in 'stranded costs' in SVPP (d) any overspend or underspend of the 2022/23 budget will upon the ending of SVPP be met by the Partner Councils in line with the cost share agreement (e) in accordance with the Letter of Agreement the SVPP Reserves of £672,747 will be held for BCP Council
Reason for recommendations	Joint Committee to oversee the dissolution of the Partnership in accordance with the legal agreement and transfer timetable between BCP Council and Dorset Council
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable - SVPP
Corporate Director	Not applicable - SVPP
Contributors	Paul Hudson, Head of SVPP
Wards	All
Classification	Decision

Background

1. The Joint Committee is required to oversee the management, performance and budget of the SVPP in accordance with the Collaboration Agreement signed in April 2014 and the Deed of Variation between BCP Council and Dorset Council of April 2019.
2. Dorset Council, in accordance with the decision of their Cabinet, duly gave notice to BCP Council to exit the Partnership for 31 March 2023.
3. BCP Council and Dorset Council have agreed that the dissolution of the partnership will take place through 2022/23 by an 'amicable arrangement' and the Partnership will end on 31 March 2023.

Letter of Agreement

4. The Section 151 Officers of BCP Council and Dorset Council signed an 'Agreement' on 30 March 2022 to terminate the Collaboration Agreement.
5. The 'Agreement' is attached as Appendix A

Ending the SVPP

6. In accordance with the 'Agreement' the main actions for the Joint Committee to recognise / oversee are:
 - That the Partnership agreement will terminate on 31 March 2023
 - BCP Council to retain the SVPP Reserve which stands at £672,747 and through this bear the risks of any associated redundancies within SVPP
 - Dorset Council on 31 March 2023 will make an upfront cash contribution of £1,100,000 to BCP Council in recognition of 'sunk costs'
 - The SVPP Pension Fund liability at termination date will be split in line with cost share agreement
 - All SVPP staff, with the exception of the posts referenced for redundancy or where temporary contracts will be terminated will transfer to BCP Council Financial Services.
 - The timetable for transfer of services to BCP Council and Dorset Council aims to have all functions completed by December 2022 and then the SVPP continue with budget review and close-down functions until 31 March 2023 when Section 151 officers formally enact the dissolution process.

Timetable for Function Transfers

7. The SVPP Board on 10 May 2022, in liaison with BCP Council and Dorset Council officers have agreed a dissolution process and for each Council and the SVPP a Transfer Project Plan.
8. The SVPP Transfer Project Plan, which is part of the overall plan is attached as Appendix B.

9. In delivering the Plan each Council will be required to resource appropriately in order to carry out the functions as they transfer.
10. Dorset Council will undertake this in an incremental basis and as functions transfer appropriate budget adjustments will be made within SVPP to support the costs of these services no longer being provided by SVPP.
11. For BCP Council the transfer of functions will be accompanied by the creation of a new Revenues and Benefits service that will bring together the BCP staff and the SVPP staff. This process is likely to take place in one 'tranche' rather than on a phased basis. Staff will be fully consulted throughout the process.
12. To reduce stranded costs to BCP Council there will be some roles that do not transfer to the new Revenues and Benefit service within SVPP and BCP. These roles will be terminated in accordance with BCP Council employment terms and conditions. BCP Human Resources and the Project Team will support this process. It is envisaged that the vacancy control process and temporary contracts will mitigate fully roles that fall outside of senior management in SVPP.

2022/23 Budget

13. The present target budget for 2022/23 is £5,058,051 for the SVPP.
14. The Board of SVPP have agreed that any underspends or overspends within SVPP will be duly dealt with in accordance with the cost share agreement.
15. With services transferring to both Councils there may be areas of 'stranded costs' within the Partnership budget.

Summary of legal implications

16. Not applicable to this report

Summary of human resources implications

17. Not applicable to this report

Summary of environmental impact

18. Not applicable to this report

19. Summary of public health implications

20. Not applicable to this report

Summary of equality implications

21. Each Council will upon designing and delivering their future services review and consider equalities impact assessments to be undertaken.

Summary of risk assessment

22. Risks will be monitored through the 'Agreement' by the SVPP Board until the termination date of 31 March 2023.

Background Papers

- SVPP Budget 2022/23
- DC-BCP-SVPP Transfer Project Plan 10 May 2022 (V5) Board

Appendices

A: Letter of Agreement (the agreement) of 30 March 2022

B: SVPP Transfer Project Plan 10 May 2022 (V5) Board