

# **SUBMISSION BY WAY OF INTERIM REPORT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON THE WORK IN PROGRESS OF THE PILOT COMPACT WORKING GROUP (“the Group”)**

## **Introduction**

The Group comprising David Sayer (Chair) Nigel Briers, Councillor John Goddard, Ken Edwards and Teresa Eatough was appointed by the Standards Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009

## **Terms of Reference:**

The Group’s terms of reference are:

- (i) to give further consideration to the Pilot Compact and the draft 13 point agreement and, if appropriate, to make recommendations;
- (ii) to liaise with, and seek further information and guidance from Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) in respect of service provision, training and costings;
- (iii) to engage with Cheshire West and Chester Council with a view to defining issues of common interest and procedural benefit.

## **Work in Progress**

The Group held its first meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2009 when it was noted that contact had been made with Ms Jackie Weaver, Chief Executive ChALC and that she would be attending the next meeting of the Group on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009. It was also noted that the Monitoring Officer had a meeting scheduled with the Council Leader and Chief Executive (Cheshire East) on the same day (4<sup>th</sup> August) in accordance with the resolution at Item 53 of the Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009 for the purpose of considering the budgetary implications arising from the Pilot Model Compact and any proposed ‘working together’ with ChALC. Finally it was noted that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Standards were to meet informally with their respective counterparts from Cheshire West originally on the 4<sup>th</sup> September but later moved to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009. [See post for further reference to this meeting]

## **The Pilot Model Compact**

In view of the several meetings yet to be held it was decided to postpone further detailed consideration of the Compact until more information is available. It was noted that Standards Board for England (SBE) had expressed support for the Group and its endeavours.

## **Meeting with ChALC**

The Group again met on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009 when JW was in attendance and in the meantime the Group and the Monitoring Officer had compiled a set of draft questions for JW and these were disclosed to JW a week prior to the meeting. This meeting and the questions raised prompted a lively discussion a comprehensive note of which (including the questions raised) has been circulated as an enclosure with the agenda papers for today's meeting of the full Standards Committee.

As will be noted from the report of the meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009 JW agreed, in response to questions raised, to provide certain information, costings and suggestions in written form which are now to hand and will be considered in the first instance by the Group when it meets at the conclusion of today's meeting.

## **Meeting with West**

This meeting, at the time of compiling and circulating the agenda, has yet to take place and the Chairman of Standards will accordingly submit a verbal report on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

## **Conclusion**

Members are reminded that this is an interim report only and should be read in conjunction with the respective reports of the meetings of the Group held on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009 respectively.

9<sup>th</sup> September 2009

## **Conclusion**

The Standards Committee is respectfully reminded that this is by way of an interim report and a final report will be submitted to the November meeting in the meantime there is much to do and hopefully.....