


Agenda Item No:	14	
Committee:	Council	
Date:	20 February 2023	
Report Title:	Approval for the Anglian Revenues Partnership (ARP) entering into a Section 113 agreement with Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council and for ARP to provide Fraud Services.	

1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 To seek approval that Fenland DC agree that they should enter into a Section 113 partnership with Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council in order that Anglia Revenues Partnership provides fraud services.
- 1.2 The funding agreed with Broadland and South Norfolk and the resource to be allocated to this work is considered sufficient to provide fraud services to Broadland and South Norfolk Council's in respect of Council tax, including Council Tax Support fraud and other fraud areas, and to contribute to efficiencies across the partnership.
- 1.3 Arrangements to share staff and access to systems will be considered.
- 1.4 Further, providing a fraud service to Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council's will add social value to the work of the ARP and throughout Norfolk; that, in turn, might lead to other, similar approaches and opportunities

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council's have asked ARP to provide, and will fund, fraud services. This request has been made following ARP providing a consultancy service review with an options appraisal.
- 2.2 This agreement will require an additional resource of two FTE's. The proposal is to recruit these two new posts on a permanent basis.
- 2.3 ARP's Joint Committee has approved this arrangement however agreement is sought with Fenland DC a partner to ARP.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Fenland DC to agree to the Section 113 partnership agreement with Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils for the provision of Fraud Services.

Wards Affected	N/A
Forward Plan Reference	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Jan French
Report Originator(s)	Sam Anthony
Contact Officer(s)	Sam Anthony
Background Papers	None

Report:

1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 The ARP partnership consists of 5 partners and is not actively looking at new, full partners following a review by the Joint Committee & Members on the 7th December 2021, focusing on the existing partners performance and customer journey.
- 1.2 The Joint Committee did, however, agree that where it will benefit the five ARP partners, then ARP will enter into separate arrangements to provide services to other Councils regarding specific elements of their Revenues & Benefits function. Such benefits will include creating greater resilience and will generate further efficiencies to meet ARP's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 1.3 Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables Local Authorities to enter into an agreement as follows:
- “a local authority may enter into an agreement with another local authority for the placing at the disposal of the latter for the purposes of their functions, on such terms as may be provided by the agreement, of the services of officers employed by the former, but shall not enter into any such agreement with respect to any officer without consulting him.”

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The proposed approach is preferred as it offers the following benefits:
- Broadland and South Norfolk Council's will provide £109,000 per annum in respect of ARP Officers and systems access to provide a fraud service.
 - The additional resource will add resilience within the existing Fraud team.
 - The potential for the provision of other shared services with others.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Anglia Revenue Partnership Joint Committee and Operations Improvement Board.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 To do nothing

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal Implications

- 5.2 A legal partnership agreement between parties to be signed.

5.3 Financial Implications

- 5.4 Broadland and South Norfolk Council's will contribute £109,000 for the cost of providing fraud services, this includes covering the administration and management of the service. An inflationary uplift for staff costs will be reviewed annually.

5.5 Equality Implications

N/A

7 SCHEDULES

N/A