

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ADOPTION REGIONALISATION DELIVERY MODEL AND DEVELOPMENT OF DETAILED BUSINESS CASE

Date Of Decision	10 March 2017
Decision Maker	Marc Bayliss
Brief Description Of Decision	<p>(a) supports in principle the preferred 'shared service' delivery model for the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) known as Adoption Central England (ACE), which is in collaboration with Solihull Metropolitan Council, Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council as set out in the report as option 2. The final decision to go ahead will be dependent on the detailed business case demonstrating that the RAA will achieve better outcomes for Worcestershire children and makes best use of the County Council's resources;</p> <p>(b) notes that this model may include the procurement of an innovation partnership arrangement with one or more Voluntary Adoption Agency (VAA);</p> <p>(c) endorses with partner authorities a detailed business case to be developed in support of option 2 and carry out appropriate consultation on the preferred shared service model;</p> <p>(d) reports to Cabinet in September 2017 making final recommendations having regard to the detailed business case and the outcome of consultation;</p> <p>(e) notes that the proposed operational delivery of ACE would mean a hosting arrangement on the basis that more detailed work is carried out as part of the business case to then allow each Local Authority to make an informed recommendation; and</p>

	<p>(f) notes that Worcestershire at this stage has not expressed an interest in hosting and that ACE have supported an evaluation process identifying Warwickshire as a suitable host, subject to (e).</p>
<p>Reason(s) For Decision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government's expectations for all local authorities to be part of a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA). In April 2016 the DfE published a new policy document "Adoption: A vision for Change" in which the government committed to deliver radical, whole system redesign by regionalising adoption services by ensuring all local authorities were part of an RAA by 2020. Being part of ACE through its development allows Worcestershire to help shape and develop the direction of ACE in collaboration with the three other local authorities. • There are benefits in creating a RAA; it could enable the pooling of information about adopters and children waiting for adoption improve choice, it could speed up matching and placement, RAAs can also benefit from economies of scale, be more flexible and creative and form better partnerships with VAAs. • All RAA must include a Voluntary Adoption Agency within its delivery model. The options being explored may include the procurement of an innovation partnership arrangement with one or more VAA to allow a more tailored solution to be developed. • A RAA with Coventry City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Council and Warwickshire County Council is considered to be the best option for Worcestershire due to location and development of the RAA. • The shared service model is the best fit for Worcestershire and our partners were also keen to progress this option with a more detail business case. • Worcestershire have an improvement journey and we do not consider hosting at this stage but did support the evaluation process to identify an in principle host (subject to more detailed work being carried out to allow an informed decision to be made)
<p>Alternative Options Considered And Rejected</p>	<p><i>Other options were considered and rejected</i></p> <p><i>(a) Company Model (rejected)</i></p> <p><i>(b) Shared Service (model agreed)</i></p> <p><i>(c) Do nothing (rejected)</i></p>
<p>Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any</p>	<p>N/A</p>

dispensation granted	
Signature of Decision Maker	Mr M L Bayliss