

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E2662

**WEST OF ENGLAND DUTY TO CO-OPERATE – PLANNING,
HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Decision maker/s	Cllr Paul Crossley (Leader of the Council) Cllr Tim Ball, Cabinet Member for Planning and Homes
The Issue	The West of England Unitary Authorities long-held commitment to working in partnership supported the early creation of the Planning, Housing & Communities Board (PHCB) in July 2008. However consideration is needed to constituting PHCB as a formally constituted Committee to further demonstrate this Council's on-going commitment to the Duty to Co-operate within the Localism Act 2011.
Decision Date	17 th May 2014
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that the principle of strengthening the existing Planning Housing and Communities Board to become a Committee subject to the production and agreement of a Joint Working Legal Agreement and to also agree in principle that officers work to formulate Terms of Reference for the Committee
Rationale for decision	The Duty to Co-operate is a statutory duty under the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. The endorsement of the Planning Housing and Communities Committee will allow the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting its duties under Section 110 of the Localism Act. The Council will benefit from direct engagement through on-going collaboration in identifying and delivering the levels of growth in the Authorities' Local Plans.
Financial and budget implications	As part of its agreed budget the Council makes an annual contribution to the West of England of £152k (2014/15); the other three West of England Unitary Authorities contribute the same amount. Part of this contribution funds the work detailed in this report. Given that this report seeks agreement to simply strengthen to the role of an existing Joint Committee there are no resource implications arising as a result.
Issues considered	Customer Focus; Sustainability; Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	At its meeting on 4 th April 2014, The West of England Planning Housing and Communities Board endorsed officers to undertake further work as necessary to put arrangements in place for a Planning, Housing and Communities Committee. The section 151 officer and the monitoring officer have been consulted
How consultation was carried out	The matter was subject to a report to the West of England Planning Housing and Communities Board and the West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee.

Other options considered	Inspectors at Examination in Public are testing the soundness of development plans and being able to demonstrate that we are meeting the Duty to Cooperate is a key component in this Council undertaking a future review of its Core Strategy and in relation to the adoption of future Development Plan Documents.
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Signatures of Decision Makers	
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Date of Signature	
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Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision