

Business Change Mandate (Including Budget Mandates) Proposal Number: B7

Title: Legal Services Review Opportunities for Income Generation

All information requested must be completed on the proposed mandate to enable the Cabinet to decide whether to proceed with the proposal.

Mandate Completed by	Robert Tranter
Date	15 th September 2015

How much savings will it generate and over what period?
Income generation target to increase by £25,000 through the provision of legal advice to public service providers.
Directorate & Service Area responsible
Legal Services & Land Charges
Mandate lead(s)
Robert Tranter

Final mandate approved by Cabinet	Date:
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1. Vision and Outcomes of the Mandate

Give a business context for the mandate. This must pick up on the vision and what the new / improved / reduced service will look like in the future including the anticipated experience of users. It must also consider any impact on the Council's key priorities and strategic outcomes. Similarly does it impact on service performance within the immediate service area or any impact on other services provided by the authority / any other providers. In doing so, the mandate must be tested against the equality impact assessment and sustainable development impact assessment and must consider impact in relation to the new Future Generations Bill.

What is the issue that the proposal is seeking to address?
<p>To receive income from providing legal advice to Melin Homes on planning agreements and consider any other external work to reduce the net cost of Legal Services and Land Charges to the council.</p> <p>To build on the findings from the Legal Services Review which aims to ensure that the council maximises opportunities to reduce it's spend on legal advice through reducing the need to purchase external independent legal advice whilst maximising any income generation opportunities.</p>
What evidence have you got that this needs to be addressed?
<p>Melin Homes has expressed an interest in requiring legal advice on planning agreements and paying for the advice received.</p> <p>Public organisations without their own legal service could access legal advice from the council more cost effectively than procuring services through a private legal firm in areas where the council's legal team has expertise and capacity. A discussion with Melin suggests that there is potential to provide legal advice on planning agreements.</p>
How will this proposal address this issue
<p>Potential to generate initial income up to £25,000 for the council (but this may need to be netted off any costs of appointing a further legal officer, if required), further scoping of potential work is required.</p>
What will it look like when you have implemented the proposal
<p>Subject to demand, Melin Homes and other public service providers will pay for any legal advice provided by Legal Services.</p>
Expected positive impacts

Income generation and to provide a cost effective legal service to other public bodies.

Expected negative impacts

Any income received may have to pay for employing an extra legal officer to undertake the work for Melin Homes and other public service providers, if existing capacity is insufficient. It is not known at this stage how much legal work public bodies may require, and subsequently the likely levels of income to be generated.

2. Savings proposed

Show how the budget mandate will make savings against the current service budget. This must cover each year implicated. This section must also cover any other efficiency that will arise from the mandate.

What savings and efficiencies are expected to be achieved?								
Service area	Current Budget £	Proposed Cash Savings £	Proposed non cash efficiencies – non £	Target year				Total Savings proposed
				16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	
The mandate is income generation rather than savings.	£500,175	£25,000 on going		£25,000				£25,000

3. Options

Prior to the mandate being written, an options appraisal will have taken place. Summarise here the outcome of the Options considered and detail the rationale on why they were disregarded. (see options appraisal guide for further information)

Options	Reason why Option was not progressed	Decision Maker
To provide the advice without employing a further legal officer.	There is little capacity within the current team to undertake the additional work but until the level of instructions from Melin and other public bodies becomes known, no decision on employing an additional legal officer will be taken.	Robert Tranter

4. Consultation

Have you undertaken any initial consultation on the idea(s)?		
Name	Organisation/ department	Date
Legal Services	MCC	September 2015

Has the specific budget mandate been consulted on?		
Function	Date	Details of any changes made?
Department Management Team		
Other Service Contributing to / impacted		
Senior leadership team		
Select Committee	22 nd October 2015	
Public or other stakeholders	Staff conference 28 th September 8 th October – 30 th November 2015	
Cabinet (sign off to proceed)		

Will any further consultation be needed?		
Name	Organisation/ department	Date
Legal Services	MCC	Autumn 2015

5. Actions to deliver the mandate

Describe the key activities that will be undertaken to deliver the mandates and the action holders. This includes any actions contributed to by other services. Give the timescales to complete the work. This must also factor in any business activities that will need to be done differently or cease in order to achieve the mandate.

Action	Officer/ Service responsible	Timescale
Meeting Melin Homes to understand level and type of service required.	Robert Tranter	Autumn 2015
Scope potential demand for legal services from other public bodies.	Robert Tranter	31st January 2016

Appoint further legal officer if required following completion of scoping exercise.	Robert Tranter	31 st March 2016

6. Additional resource/ business needs

Describe any additional finance, resource and capability needed in order to carry out the proposed mandate successfully. For example new funding, expertise e.g. marketing and knowledge etc..

Any additional investment required	Where will the investment come from	Any other resource/ business need (non-financial)
To appoint a legal officer if required.	Fee income	

7. Measuring performance on the mandate

How do you intend to measure the impact of the mandate? This could include: speed of service; quality of service; customer satisfaction; unit cost; overall cost. For advice on developing performance measures you can contact Policy and Performance Team, for advice on unit costs speak with your directorate accountant.

Focus- Budget / Process / Staff / Customer	Indicator	Actual 2016/17	Actual 2017/18	Actual 2018/19	Actual 2019/20	Target 2016/17	Target 2017/18	Target 2018/19	Target 2019/20
Melin	Level of instructions and fee income	£25,000							

8. Key Risks and Issues

Are there any potential barriers and risks that will need to be managed in delivering the mandate, including any negative impacts identified in section 1 that need to be accounted for. Also, set out the steps that will be taken to mitigate these. The risks should be scored in accordance with the [council's policy](#).

Barrier or Risk	Strategic/ Operational	Reason why identified (evidence)	Risk Assessment			Mitigating Actions	Post mitigation risk level
			Likelihood	Impact	Overall Level		
Level of income the Melin instructions will generate.	Operational	Scoping exercise not completed to date	Medium	High	High		
The income from Melin may not cover the cost of employing another legal officer.	Operational		Low	High	Low		

9. Assumptions

Describe any assumptions made that underpin the justification for the option.

Assumption	Reason why assumption is being made (evidence)
Demand for Legal Services from Melin from 1 st April 2016 will generate net income of £25k.	Early discussions with Melin could lead to potential purchase of Legal Services from the Council.

10. Monitoring the budget mandate

The budget mandates must be monitored through directorate budget monitoring. This will lead into corporate budget monitoring. In addition the action plan, performance measures and the risk assessment must be transferred into the service plans for the business area in order to monitor and challenge the delivery of the budget mandate, including the savings being achieved and the level of impact.

11. Evaluation

It is important to evaluate the impact of the mandate once it has been fully delivered to know whether it has successfully achieved what it set out to do and to ensure that findings can be used to inform future work.

Planned Evaluation Date	Who will complete the evaluation?
Once implemented	Tracey Harry

DRAFT