


Agenda Item No:	15	
Committee:	Council	
Date:	20 February 2023	
Report Title:	Approval for the Anglian Revenues Partnership (ARP) entering into a Section 113 agreement with Lincolnshire County Council (to include Boston Borough Council, City of Lincoln Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council, South Kesteven District Council, North Kesteven District Council and South Holland District Council) for ARP to provide Single Person Discount Fraud Services.	

1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 To seek approval that Fenland DC agree that they should enter into a Section 113 partnership with Lincolnshire County Council (to include Boston Borough Council, City of Lincoln Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council, South Kesteven District Council, North Kesteven District Council and South Holland District Council) for ARP to provide Single Person Discount Fraud Services.
- 1.2 The funding agreed with Lincolnshire County Council and the resource to be allocated to this work is considered sufficient to provide Lincolnshire County Council and 7 Districts the SPD Review in Council tax.
- 1.3 Further, providing a SPD Review Lincolnshire and its Districts will add social value to the work of the ARP that, in turn, might lead to other, similar approaches and opportunities

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 Lincolnshire County Council (to include Boston Borough Council, City of Lincoln Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council, South Kesteven District Council, North Kesteven District Council and South Holland District Council) have asked ARP to provide, and will fund, a Single Person Discount in Council Tax..
- 2.2 This agreement will require an additional resource of five FTE's within ARP. The proposal is to recruit three new posts on a permanent and two on a temporary 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 Lincolnshire County Council (to include Boston Borough Council, City of Lincoln Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council, South Kesteven District Council, North Kesteven District Council and South Holland District Council) for the provision of Fraud Services.

Wards Affected	N/A
3 Forward Plan Reference	4
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 (including Fenland) 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. One such function is the provision of Fraud Services

- 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:

- will provide **£295,000 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 Lincolnshire County Council (to include Boston Borough Council, City of Lincoln Council, East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council, South Kesteven District Council, North Kesteven District Council and South Holland District Council) will contribute £295,000 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

6 SCHEDULES

N/A