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| Agenda Item No: | 8                                                                             |  |
| Committee:      | Council                                                                       |                                                                                    |
| Date:           | 5 November 2015                                                               |                                                                                    |
| Report Title:   | Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) - Moving to a single member Joint Committee |                                                                                    |

## 1 Purpose / Summary

The Council joined the Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) in April 2014, becoming one of the seven partner Councils running a shared Revenues and Benefits service.

Governance of ARP is provided by a Joint Committee that comprises two Members from each of the seven authorities, with one Member being elected as Chair each year.

## 2 Key issues

- With ARP expanding to have seven partner authorities, Joint Committee at its meeting on 17 September 2015 resolved to recommend to each of the Councils that it should move towards a model of one Member per authority.
- This report asks Cabinet to agree to the above principle so that it can be taken to Council for agreement at its 5 November 2015 meeting.

## 3 Recommendations

It is recommended by Cabinet that Council approve:

- That Council agrees that the Anglia Revenues Partnership should be comprised of one Member per authority, with two substitutes and the option of one of the substitutes to attend Joint Committee meetings and take part in debate (but not vote).

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| <b>Wards Affected</b>         | All                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Forward Plan Reference</b> | This report is included in the Forward Plan                                                                                         |
| <b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>    | Councillor Chris Seaton, Portfolio Holder for Finance<br>Councillor John Clark, Leader of the Council                               |
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| <b>Background Paper(s)</b> | <a href="#">Minutes of ARP Joint Committee meeting on 17 September 2015</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## 4 Background

- 4.1 Prior to April 2014, ARP was comprised of four partner authorities (Breckland, East Cambs, Forest Heath and St. Edmundsbury).
- 4.2 At this time Joint Committee had 10 Members; 2 from each of the above authorities.
- 4.3 As of 1 April 2014, Fenland together with Suffolk Coastal and Waveney joined the partnership, bringing the number of authorities to seven.
- 4.2 This meant Joint Committee then had 14 Members.
- 4.3 Joint Committee asked the Operational Improvement Board (comprised of Senior Managers from each authority, that take a strategic oversight of the day to day operation of ARP - Fenland is represented by the Corporate Director - Finance), to look at the implications of a larger Joint Committee.
- 4.4 Operational Improvement Board researched the Governance arrangements of all of the partner authorities and suggested that in order for Joint Committee to be able to better respond to forthcoming challenges, a smaller size Committee would be better able to respond at short notice. It had also become apparent that with 14 Members, arranging meetings at a mutually acceptable date across all partner authorities was challenging.
- 4.5 It was therefore proposed to and agreed by Joint Committee at its meeting on 17 September 2015 that it should move to a single Member per authority, subject to agreement by each authority.
- 4.6 In effect this move creates one vote per Council, simplifying operation of the Joint Committee.
- 4.7 At the same time, each authority will have two substitute Members who will be able to attend as required and take part in the meeting, but not vote.

## 5 The way forward for Fenland

- 5.1 It is recommended by Cabinet that Council approves the proposals as detailed in section 3 of this report.