

## **DESCRIPTION OF OPTION**

This option proposes an investigation into collaboration with Cheshire West and Chester in order to establish a Mutual to deliver regulatory services. Other alternative ways of providing these services will also be provided.

## **RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS**

Cheshire West and Chester Council is committed to the development of an alternative model for the delivery of regulatory services, such as Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing.

Potential savings opportunities available by transferring the work to a mutual are:

- Introducing a value for money test for all suppliers of products and services to the mutual. (support costs savings)
- Reduced sickness levels via increased staff commitment. Research suggests the average number of sick days in provider services is 14 days per employee per year. The average number in social enterprises is 9 days.
- Less bureaucratic processes.
- Increased productivity through more engaged employees.
- Increased cost-cutting through employee and service user innovation.

The new delivery model has the potential to create an organisation that can develop as a trading entity and deliver savings to the councils.

Savings will not be until 2013/14.

## **IMPACT**

The establishment of the mutual or other alternative means of service delivery requires the development of a sound business case and consultation with staff.

In addition, the establishment of the new legal entity will require specialist legal advice. Cheshire West and Chester have engaged specialist legal advisors for the purpose.

## **MITIGATION**

The service could be retained in house but the potential benefits from a mutual with other partners would not be achievable. Saving from the in house service would undermine delivery.