

Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority Cabinet

Date 24th February 2023

Title LGR Programme Update Report

Report from: Kathryn Griffiths, Senior Manager – LGR Programme

Report Author: Kathryn Griffiths, Senior Manager – LGR Programme

Wards: All

Key Decision: No

1.0 Purpose/Summary of report

- 1.1. This report provides Members with an update on the Programme in place to support Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria.
- 1.2. The report consists of the latest Programme Dashboard presented to the Programme Board (24 January 2023), and a summary of the Day One Board report presented to the Day One Programme Board (24 January 2023).

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Shadow Authority Cabinet:-

- (1) Notes the report details and key points included in section 3 of this report.

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 Members have previously agreed that the format of this report and associated appendices for providing a monthly update on the progress of the LGR Programme. It shares key progress summaries considered regularly by the Programme Board and the Day One Board.

Programme Dashboard Report 24/1/2023(Appendix 1)

- 3.2 The LGR Programme Board meets monthly and receives a programme dashboard report at every meeting. The Programme Board is chaired by the Programmes Senior Responsible officer and includes Chief Executives from all of the Councils and Programme Theme Leads. The dashboard provides:
- an executive summary of progress,
 - highlighted key programme milestones,
 - a position statement (updated monthly) on the LGR Implementation Reserve,
 - any items for escalation to the Programme Board,
 - key risks from across the programme,
 - a summary of all critical changes to the programme as the change control process is embedded.

Day One Board Report Summary 24/1/2023 (Appendix 2)

- 3.3 The Day One Board meets weekly and is chaired by the Programme's Senior Responsible Officer and includes all technical leads and programme managers representing delivery themes from across the programme. The board is focused on delivery against the programme's critical day one requirements, needed to ensure that the new councils and the operation of their services are safe and legal on day one. Sixty-one delivery plans are in place and aligned to those requirements, incorporating key milestones, progress on delivery and flags where progress is at risk.
- 3.4 The Day One Board receives a report on progress at every meeting. This is a detailed report and reviews progress against all delivery plans (including actions, milestones and day one requirements). It assists the Board in focusing on the most critical areas. Included in this report (at Appendix 2) is the summary page of the report that includes some key performance measures for the programme:
- progress in delivering against day one requirements
 - the number of day one requirements and milestones that have been flagged (e.g. due to a decision pending or a delay due to an interdependency) or have reached their due date but are still reporting as incomplete
 - a count of the number of day one requirements across each theme and the associated milestone (Level 1, 2, 3)
 - a summary of the status updates for each of the requirements by theme
 - a snapshot of the completeness of data held across the three thousand plus action lines within all deliver plans

3.5 Key Points to Highlight from the Programme Dashboard and Day One Report Summary (24 January 2023):

- 46.8% of the programmes 1,332 milestones have now been completed, with 29 of the 212 Day 1 Requirements fulfilled and a further 34 nearing completion. A strong focus on accountability for delivery is being maintained by the Day 1 Board with the ongoing provision of support and challenge across all themes.
- Appointment to Chief Officer structures (including Section 151 and Monitoring Officers) will be finalised by the end of January 2023. Assistant Director structures are now confirmed, and internal recruitment will commence early February with appointments finalised by 10th March. The staff allocation process will be complete by the end of January and TUPE letters will start to be issued from 17th February.
- The ICT Theme has been closely monitored throughout the programme and this continues. The Microsoft Licensing Agreement is now in place and contracts have been awarded for the Adults Social Care Case Management and Finance/Charging systems. The existing County Council contract for the Highways Information Management System has been modified for implementation with a view to awarding two new contracts before Vesting Day. The contract for the Asset Management system is due to be finalised before the end of January.
- The consultation regarding potential council tax increases and harmonisation is ongoing and will close on 13 February 2023. The draft revenue budget 2023/24 and MTFP 2023-2028 is due to be considered at the Shadow Cabinet meeting on 24 February 2023 and if supported proposed to the Shadow Authority Council meeting on 07 March 2023. Consultation on the proposed draft budget is taking place with Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23rd February.
- Constitutions will be agreed by both Council's by the end of January and the Inter-authority agreements and service schedules for hosted services are in the process of being finalised.
- Planning for Services activity is underway and will be a focus for the next 2 months for the Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness Unitary Boards alongside the activity above.

- Both Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness Unitary Boards have been focusing on clarifying their priorities and are developing overarching delivery plans to encompass strategic activity up to and then past vesting day to support transition into the new councils.
- The Senior Responsible Officers (Chief Executive Designates and Cumbria County Council Chief Executive) are continuing to closely monitor and manage the LGR implementation reserve, challenging and prioritising the additional resource asks and it is expected that either through further challenge of the use of the reserve or additional financial support from sovereign authorities that the required resources to deliver day 1 safe and legal will be available.
- New websites are in place for each new unitary council and are in development alongside legacy websites to ensure a consistent customer journey. Telephony solutions are in place and implementation activity is underway.
- The programmes strategic risks have seen some reduction as the likelihood of some risks occurring has reduced.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 The contents of this report respond to a Statutory Instrument which was the subject of consultation by the Government.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 The contents of this report details reporting mechanisms relating to progress of the LGR Programme, whilst there is a choice about how this might take place, the approach described is considered the most effective, efficient, and fitting to local circumstances.

6.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

6.1 There are no direct implications associated with this report. Note that the programme has a Financial and Commercial Theme Board, and an implementation reserve of £18.92m.

Human Resources

- 6.2 There are no direct implications associated with this report. Note that the programme has Human Resources & Organisational Development Workstream as part of the Corporate & Enabling Theme.

Legal

- 6.3 There are no direct implications associated with this report. Note that the programme has a Legal & Democratic Services Workstream as part of the Corporate & Enabling Theme.

Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment

- 6.4 Have you completed a Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment? No
- 6.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: There are no direct implications associated with this report. Assessments are being considered across the programme as it develops.

Equality and Diversity

- 6.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No
- 6.8 If you have not completed an Impact Analysis, please explain your reasons: There are no direct implications associated with this report. Assessments are being considered across the programme as it develops.

Risk Management	Consequence	Controls required
There is a need for a co-ordinated approach to reporting LGR Programme delivery progress to ensure effective and efficient management of the programme.	Failure to deliver statutory and key services on vesting day.	The programme governance arrangements described in this report assist in mitigating this risk.

Contact Officers

Kathryn Griffiths, Senior Manager - LGR, kathryn.griffiths@cumbria.gov.uk, 07384241477.

Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	LGR Programme Dashboard
2	Day One Board Report

Background Documents Available

None