

**CABINET  
28 APRIL 2009**

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**XENTRALL SHARED SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Stephen Harker,  
Efficiency & Resources Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the first annual report of Xentrall Shared Services.

**Summary**

2. Xentrall Shared Services is an innovative public/public partnership between Darlington and Stockton Council's providing ICT, transaction finance and HR and Print and Design services to both Councils. The partnership business case previously approved by Members identified joint savings of £7.4m over 10 years and significant service improvements. The achievements delivered in year one of the Partnership are highlighted in the annual report.

**Recommendations**

3. It is recommended that the report be noted.

**Reasons**

4. To allow Members to receive information about the progress of this innovative partnership.

**Paul Wildsmith  
Director of Corporate Services**

**Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no crime and disorder issues in this report
Health and Well Being	There are no health and wellbeing issues in this report
Sustainability	There are no sustainability issues in this report
Diversity	There are no diversity issues in this report
Wards Affected	The issues in this report apply to all wards
Groups Affected	No particular groups are affected by this report
Budget and Policy Framework	The report does not propose changes to the budget or policy framework
Key Decision	The report does not require a key decision
Urgent Decision	The report does not require an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The subject matter of the report supports the SCS
Efficiency	The establishment of Xentrall is a key element of the Council's ongoing efficiency agenda

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. Darlington and Stockton Council's agreed to establish a shared services partnership to deliver ICT, transactional HR and Finance and Print and Design services. The key aims of the partnership were to improve efficiency, service performance and service resilience by bringing together the services of both Councils. The business case as agreed by both Councils is on line to deliver its targets and already additional benefits beyond those envisaged in the business case are being delivered as the two Councils work closer together, a recent example being a joint procurement exercise on agency staff.
6. As part of the governance arrangements of the partnership, the Partnership Consultative Panel, which is made up of the relevant Cabinet Members and Directors from Stockton and Darlington and the Partnership Managers are required to present an annual report to each Council and the first report is attached at **Appendix 1**.
7. The annual report covers progress against the business case and performance in the first year. This partnership is one of the first of its kind in the country and therefore much of what has been achieved is innovative and challenging to deliver and it is a credit to the partnership team that so much has been achieved in the first year of operation. Firm foundations are now in place which will enable the partnership to make progress in delivering the agreed business case leading to efficiencies for the two Councils of £7.4m, however, much greater and wider benefits are anticipated.

### Outcome of Consultation

8. No specific consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of the report, however, the annual report is being reported to Resources Scrutiny Committee.