

**Theme and Overview: 3. Self-Sufficient Council: Better Use of Property  
(Integrating Public Sector Depots)**

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**Overview of proposal:**

The County Council has a set of depot sites for highways maintenance and winter gritting. Co-location has been considered before but it has proved difficult and the timing was not right. Now that we have set the ambition of one public estate through the formation of Place Partnership we are re-visiting the potential.

This proposal is to consider the opportunities and benefits that could be derived from the County Council alone or in partnership with other public sector partners, in sharing space, assets, resource and/or management and operation of one or more depots within the county. This proposal could potentially build into a business case as part of the Better Use of Property Programme to deliver longer term savings as an "invest to save" initiative.

The following partners are interested in exploring in more detail along with capturing the opportunities and understanding any constraints.

- *Worcestershire County Council*
- *Bromsgrove District Council*
- *Redditch District Council*
- *Worcester City Council*
- *Wychavon District Council*
- *Wyre Forest District Council*
- *Herefordshire and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue*
- *West Midlands Ambulance Service*
- *Ringway*
- *West Mercia Police*

These partners all found the discussion useful and agreed there were clear opportunities for operational efficiencies that could drive co-location and agreed further detailed work should progress to look at the current operations in three geographical areas of the county i.e:

- Redditch, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster
- Wychavon and Malvern
- Worcester/Central

Further workshops, focused on these three areas will be arranged to take forward the operational reviews and develop the feasibility of joint operations and this development will be led by Place Partnership through the one public estate approach.

As a subset of this approach the County Council will consider short term opportunities to co-locate depots in response to third party developers promoting the South Worcestershire Development Plan.

Research has shown that whilst there are some good examples of efficiencies being derived from shared depots across local government partners, there is a lack of similar examples of wider public sector shared approaches. It is therefore expected that some external specialist support would be advantageous to progress this concept through feasibility and business case development.

#### What additional savings/income is targeted and when is this expected to be delivered?

Budget				
2016/17	TBC			
Savings				
Initiative	2017/18 £,000	2018/19 £,000	2019/20 £,000	Post 2020 £,000
		TBC		
Total		TBC		

#### Cost of delivery e.g. redundancy, additional resources to deliver, investment in technology and assets etc.

An early indication of investment requirements is shown below however at this stage, the expected level of investment cannot be quantified and this will be understood more clearly through feasibility and business case development:

- Specialist external support to develop business case £80,000

#### What will be the key outcomes?

- Efficiency savings from the economies of scale derived from multi use, co-location and management of depot space across the County
- Shared risk across partners on developing and managing the shared depot
- Investment requirements shared across the public sector
- Opportunity to generate additional income and growth through wider and longer term collaboration with other public/private sector partners
- Increased income from sale and/or development of redundant sites as a result of sharing locations

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**What are the key milestones for delivery?**

The proposed timeline for phase one – feasibility and business case ratification is outlined below

Initial exploratory workshop with partners	22 June 2016 (Completed)
Feasibility study completed	January 2017
Specialist support engaged	February 2017
Outline Business Case ratified by all partners	March 2017
Cabinet endorsement of intention	October 2017