

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME FROM THE MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY CONSIDERING A UNITARY STRUCTURE FOR LEICESTERSHIRE HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2018

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

Mr P. Bedford CC

Dr T. Eynon CC

Mr D. Harrison CC

Mrs R. Page CC

Mrs B. Seaton CC

Mr M. Charlesworth CC

Mr S. Galton CC

Mr A. Pearson CC

Mr N. Rushton CC (Chairman)

Mrs M. Wright CC

OPERATING PROTOCOL

The Working Party agreed its meetings would be held in private to allow members freely to explore options and ideas. Following the meeting a note of the key issues which had been discussed or identified for further exploration would be made publicly available.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference as set out in the Cabinet report of 16th October were agreed. The Working Party also confirmed that in undertaking this role it:-

- would look at any alternate proposal be put forward by the District Councils collectively or individually;
- recognised the separate and distinct role of the Scrutiny Commission and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to examine the Cabinet's proposals and that it would not meet again until the Scrutiny process had been completed to consider the views and comments made by the Scrutiny Commission and Committees.

ISSUES DISCUSSED/ACTIONS AGREED

The Working Party:-

- i) recognised that a proposal to establish a unitary structure, should this be agreed, carried with it risks around implementation and these need to be understood at the outset. A register of key risks should therefore be prepared;

- ii) considered there would be merit in understanding whether there was a link between the size of a unitary authority and financial viability and requested the Director of Resources to research this;
- iii) noted that Parish and Town Councils were a key and integral part of the proposals for a unitary structure of local government and as such further work was needed on how that relationship would work and how they would be supported in their new role;
- iv) requested an update to a future meeting on the opportunities offered for sharing and rationalising the existing property portfolios of all Councils;
- v) asked for an update on the development of the Strategic Alliance and the recent Government announcement of the formation of a Development Corporation centered on the proposed HS2 hub in Toton and surrounding area;
- vi) asked members to reflect on the proposals in the report concerning the new roles for members, the use of individual budgets for members and the role and remit of the proposed Area Committees.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Party will be held on 14th December 2018.