

Lancaster City Council | Report Cover Sheet

Meeting	Cabinet	Date	23 March 2021
Title	Local Government Reform – consultation responses		
Report of	Chief Executive		
Purpose of the Report			
This report is to seek Cabinet’s endorsement of the proposed approach to the government’s consultation on Local Government Reorganisation and to ask Cabinet to recommend the approach to Council.			
Key Decision (Y/N)	Y	Date of Notice	Exempt (Y/N)

Report Summary

This report refers to the report to full Council entitled “Local Government Reform – consultation responses”, which outlines the proposed approach to responding to the government’s formal consultation following submission of proposals for unitary councils in Cumbria and for the Bay. Cabinet is asked to endorse the proposed approach and to recommend it to Council.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

Cabinet notes the attached Council report and appendices and endorses and recommends to Council the proposed approach to the government’s consultation on Local Government Reorganisation

Relationship to Policy Framework

Council approved the proposal for a Bay unitary at its meeting on 8 December 2020. The government’s consultation is pursuant to submission of the proposals for a unitary council for the Bay and other proposals for Cumbria in December 2020.

Conclusion of Impact Assessment(s), where applicable

Climate	Wellbeing & Social Value
Digital	Health & Safety
Equality	Community Safety

There are no direct impacts as a result of this report, which is a consultation response.

Details of Consultation

The three councils undertook a considerable level of engagement and consultation in the short period of time that was available to develop the Bay unitary proposal and this highlighted strong public support for the bid. At this time, the Council is responding to a consultation process and is making all local stakeholders and residents aware and encouraging them to respond to the consultation through the appropriate channels.

Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report, which is a consultation response.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report, which is a consultation response.

Other Resource or Risk Implications	
There are no direct resource impacts as a result of this report, which is a consultation response. Risks are also limited but by not submitting a response to consultation on the proposals submitted, the Council would significantly reduce its influence in the reorganisation of local government.	
Section 151 Officer's Comments	
The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no additional comments	
Monitoring Officer's Comments	
The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no additional comments	
Contact Officer	Kieran Keane
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Email	
Links to Background Papers	

1.0 Report

- 1.1 This report refers to the attached Council report and appendices that provide further information on the ongoing government consultation on Local Government Reorganisation.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to note the contents of the Council report and to endorse and recommend to Council the proposed approach to the government's consultation

3.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 3.1 There is an option not to submit a response. The Council's full proposal indicates the benefits and opportunities which could be realised for residents and businesses by a Bay Unitary. By not submitting a response to consultation on the proposals submitted, the Council would significantly reduce its influence in the reorganisation of local government. This option is not recommended.

4.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

- 4.1 The officer preferred option is to submit responses to the government's consultation, taking the opportunity to influence decisions on local government arrangements for the area. Responding to the consultation does not create any specific risks for the council and would reinforce the strength of the proposal for the Bay unitary. Not responding to the consultation creates the risk that the Council is not able to influence the outcome of proposals.