

Local Government Reform Developments 5 November 2020

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

Noting that the Government has now requested outline unitary proposals from Cumbria be submitted on or before 9 November and full business case proposals by 9 December, Council is requested to authorise the submission of outline case for a unitary authority for The Bay area, at Appendix 1.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Council approves the outline proposal as attached at Appendix 1 and authorises submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by 9 November 2020;**
- 2. The Chief Executive and Leader are delegated to approve any minor amendments that may arise following consideration by South Lakeland and Barrow Councils prior to submission and to continue with the work on the final proposal; and**
- 3. Council agrees that a final proposal can be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet and Council prior to the requested deadline from Government of 9 December 2020, noting that a date of 8 December has been scheduled for this purpose.**

1.0 Report

- 1.1** At its meeting in September, Council authorised the Leader and Chief Executive to develop a high level case for a new unitary council for the area comprising the three districts around Morecambe Bay. This work has now been completed.
- 1.2** Council should note that since the last meeting, Following the last Council meeting, the government issued an invitation to the Cumbria authorities to submit outline unitary proposals by 9 November 2020 and full business case proposals by 9 December 2020.

- 1.3 Council is also asked to note the contents of the attached Cabinet report which provides further information.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 1.4 The outline proposal has now been developed and Council is now asked to approve the proposal and authorise submission to the government by the deadline of 9 November 2020.
- 1.5 Recognising that both Barrow Borough Council and South Lakeland District Council are considering the outline proposal at the same time as Lancaster City Council, it is also proposed that the Leader and Chief Executive are authorised to make any minor amendments that may arise following consideration by the other two councils.
- 1.6 Taking into account the government's requirements and deadlines for full unitary business case proposals to be submitted by 9 December 2020, Council is asked to agree that a final proposal be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet and Council and to note that a meetings have been scheduled on the 8 December for this purpose.
- 1.7 The outline case for a unitary proposal for the Bay area is provided at Appendix 1.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 Details of consultation have been provided in the attached Cabinet report.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 An options analysis is provided in the attached Cabinet report.

5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

- 5.1 The officer preferred option is to submit the outline proposal to the government by the government's deadline as this keeps the option for a unitary proposal for the Bay area on the table. Please refer to the attached Cabinet report for the detailed options analysis.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 Following the Council's meeting in September and authorisation to develop an outline unitary proposal for the Bay areas, the proposal is now presented for council's consideration. It is recommended that this is now submitted to the government in line with its invitation to the Cumbrian local authorities for outline unitary proposals by 9 November. Council is also asked to agree that a full business case for a unitary proposal is considered at a future meeting and note that meetings have been scheduled for the 8 December in order to meet the government's deadline of 9 December.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT
(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):

Implications are discussed in full in the attached Cabinet report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Implications are discussed in full in the attached Cabinet report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Implications are discussed in full in the attached Cabinet report.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces

Implications are discussed in full in the attached Cabinet report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted in the drafting of this report and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Bay Prosperity and Resilience Strategy

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