



## SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 30 SEPTEMBER

### COMBINED AUTHORITY

#### MINUTE EXTRACT

#### 32. Combined Authority.

The Commission considered a report of the Chief Executive seeking the views of the Commission on proposals to form a Combined Authority (CA) as part of a consultation process. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 11", is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the Leader of the County Council, Mr. N. J. Rushton CC, who was present to introduce the report and respond to any questions from members.

The Leader reported that local areas were being encouraged by Central Government to take on extra responsibility for economic growth. In part due to the good working relations that existed between the County and City Councils, positive steps had been taken to bring the proposals before the Commission today.

The Chief Executive reported that the timeline for the proposals would be as follows:

- The consultation process would run to 20 October 2015;
- Revisions to the proposals would be considered arising from this process;
- The proposals would be submitted to the Economic Growth Board and then taken through the County Council's decision making process (as well as those of the City Council and district councils), through November and December 2015;
- A second Government led consultation process would likely be held in Spring 2016 prior to the proposals being taken through the parliamentary order process.

Arising from a discussion, the following points were noted:

- Leaders of all district and borough councils would appoint themselves to the CA, on which all would each have one vote. There was a power of veto or an "opt out" which it was hoped would not become obstructive. The Chairman of the LLEP would sit on the CA in a non-voting capacity;
- It was hoped that, as part of the proposals, it would not be necessary to elect a County Mayor as this would inevitably cause difficulties for the City Mayor and therefore the involvement of the City Council;
- It was too early to know at this stage how the Combined Authority scrutiny function would work in practice, though it was known that in order to gain

approval from Government, scrutiny arrangements had to be in place. Any function would have to reflect political and geographical balance in a similar way to the Police and Crime Panel;

- The CA and local planning authorities would have concurrent powers that would place an emphasis on co-operation from both sides;
- A County Mayor would have to be elected were health partners to be involved. If this were to be the case it would also be necessary to involve Rutland County Council in the CA because of the arrangements already in place for health.

RESOLVED:

That the Commission supports the proposals for a Combined Authority.