

Submission to Cabinet

13 December 2016

From Robert Sharp CC,
Labour Leader

**Item 4 – MTFS 2017/18 – 2020/21****Why no action on establishing a Unitary structure?**

This report highlights the considerable financial pressures facing the County Council and the difficult service cuts that lay ahead.

With such known pressures, the public will find it inconceivable that we are still failing to tackle the waste and duplication that has been identified by Ernst and Young in their strategic review of establishing a Unitary Authority.

Replacing the current two-tier system could save over £30 million, money that will stop cuts to vital care services for children and adults.

At the Council meeting of 17 February 2016, the Labour Group submitted a Motion seeking an urgent review to be undertaken to underpin the early establishment of a new Unitary Authority structure to:

1. Deliver a saving of at least £20m per annum;
2. Provide strong, effective and accountable strategic leadership for Leicestershire; and
3. Better engage with local communities

The Conservative Administration failed to act upon the initiative and have simply added it as a holding note in this current report without any explanation as to why the estimated savings would not provide financial aid to the chronically underfunded Adult and Children's social care services.

We urge that the matter be reconsidered and a project established with immediate effect, tasked with delivering a new Unitary structure for Leicestershire that achieves points 1-3 above.

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