

SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 10 NOVEMBER 2025

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION - DRAFT BUSINESS CASE

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES AND THE DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

Purpose of the Report

1. Following the meeting of the Commission on 29 October, the purpose of this supplementary report is to attach the draft business case for local government reorganisation in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland for members' consideration.

Background

2. Members are asked to note that the business case is still in draft form and there is some additional information to be included. In particular, the impact on the county of the option being put forward by Leicester City Council for an expansion to the city boundaries to include Oadby and Wigston Borough, Blaby District and Harborough District will be modelled and the business case will be revised accordingly.

Resource Implications

3. There are no resource implications arising from the recommendation in this report. Work completed to date on LGR has been delivered using internal resources, however LGR will be a significant undertaking that will have an impact on the Council's financial position in future years. More detail is set out in the draft business case.

Timetable for Decisions

4. The Council's final Business Case must be submitted to the Government by 28 November 2025. It will be considered by a meeting of full Council on 12 November, and the Cabinet at its meeting on 25 November will then be asked to approve the final business case for submission.

Equality Implications

5. Due to the complexity/scope of the proposal and possible wide scale impact of the changes proposed the Council will adopt a strategic approach to conducting Equality Impact Assessments during all programme phases and stages.

Human Rights Implications

6. There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

7. The Scrutiny Commission is asked to comment on the draft Business Case setting out the proposals for LGR for Leicestershire. These comments will be shared with the full Council at its meeting on 12 November.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

8. This report will be circulated to all members of the Council.

Officers to Contact

John Sinnott Chief Executive Tel: 0116 305 6000

Email: john.sinnott@leics.gov.uk

Lauren Haslam Director of Law and Governance

Tel: 0116 305 6240

Email: Lauren.haslam@leics.gov.uk

Declan Keegan Director of Corporate Resources

Tel: 0116 305 7668

Email: Declan.keegan@leics.gov.uk

Rosemary Whitelaw Head of Democratic Services

Tel: 0116 305 6098

Email: rosemary.whitelaw@leics.gov.uk

Background Papers

Acting Leader's Position Statement to the County Council meeting on 19 February 2025 https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=134&Mld=7391&Ver=4

Notices of Motion to the County Council meetings on 2 July and 20 July 2025 and minutes of those meetings -

https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=134&Mld=7859&Ver=4 https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=134&Mld=8218&Ver=4

Reports to the Cabinet and minutes of those meetings -

17 December - "English Devolution White Paper" https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=135&Mld=7512&Ver=4

18 March 2025 - "English Devolution White Paper: Local Government Reorganisation" https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=135&Mld=7874&Ver=4

7 February 2025 - "English Devolution White Paper: Local Government Reorganisation - Including Urgent Action Taken" https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=135&Mld=7873&Ver=4

13 September 2025 - "Local Government Reorganisation" https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=135&Mld=7879

Presentation to the Scrutiny Commission on 29 October 2025 – Agenda for Scrutiny Commission on Wednesday, 29 October 2025, 2.00 pm - Leicestershire County Council

