

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE CABINET

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – DRAFT BUSINESS CASE

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present members with a summary of the points raised by the Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 10 November.

Summary of Comments

2. The points raised by the Scrutiny Commission on 10 November are as follows:

- (a) The options appraisal is cluttered and could be streamlined by removing a couple of options.
- (b) Reconsider the appraisal of the three unitary option in the options appraisal.
- (c) Strengthen the following points:
 - i. That administrative boundaries should not be changed where there is no service benefit in doing so.
 - ii. That Rutland's culture and heritage will be protected and that reorganisation will result in the creation of a new authority with a new culture and ethos.
 - iii. That there is no political support for the expansion of Leicester City Council's boundaries.
 - iv. The reference to keeping service points in localities.
 - v. The additional services that Parish Councils could choose to take on, clarifying that it is up to them and adding reference to the existing quality standard.
- (d) Provide detail on how planning decisions will be taken.
- (e) Include a table with key facts to demonstrate the relative sizes of the existing authorities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
- (f) Include reference to the preference for single member wards for the new authority.
- (g) Give a sense of area committee boundaries.

- (h) Acknowledge that, whilst Rutland Council may choose to look elsewhere, the County Council believes that Leicestershire is the best fit for it.
- (i) Request a referendum if the Government is minded to implement an option that includes an expansion of the City Council boundaries.
- (j) Include information from the Council's Annual Delivery Report.
- (k) Include evidence of confusion felt by the public over which council to contact.
- (l) Explain the expected population growth over the next decade.
- (m) Make the document more visually appealing.

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 a significant impact on the Council's financial position in future years. More detail is set out in the business case.

Equality Implications

4. 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.

13 September 2025

**Mr D Harrison CC
Leader of the Council**

Background Papers

Acting Leader's Position Statement to the County Council meeting on 19 February 2025

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=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?CId=134&MId=7859&Ver=4>

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=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?CId=135&MId=7512&Ver=4>

18 March 2025 - "English Devolution White Paper: Local Government Reorganisation"

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7874&Ver=4>

7 February 2025 - "English Devolution White Paper: Local Government Reorganisation - Including Urgent Action Taken"

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7873&Ver=4>

12 September 2025 - "Local Government Reorganisation"

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7879>

Reports to the Scrutiny Commission

29 October 2025 – "Local Government Reorganisation"

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=8324&Ver=4>

10 November 2025 – "Local Government Reorganisation – Draft Business Case"

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=7836&Ver=4>

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