

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 10 DECEMBER 2015

MEMBERSHIP OF LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY – PROGRESS REPORT REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Scrutiny Commission on progress with Councils in Leicester and Leicestershire towards securing a Combined Authority for the area.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Commission acknowledges the current position and advises the Leader and the Chief Executive as to expectations from the negotiations with Government, which will follow the submission of the proposals later in December.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 On the recommendation of the Executive, Council determined on 10 November that it wished to become a member of the emerging Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Authority (LLCA). Alongside that, Members clarified that they wished the Council to continue to pursue membership of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP), as a means of maintaining an influence on priorities and expenditure in that area, being already a member of the Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal and its Joint Committee.
- 3.2 'Associate' membership of the CWLEP was agreed on 23 November. In essence, this enables influence via the two District representatives on the CWLEP Board, in the same way as is currently the case with the Leicester and Leicestershire LEP; the only difference being that an associate member can not be on the Board itself. As a first step, this is a satisfactory arrangement.
- 3.3 As regards membership of the LLCA, the timetable expects that all potential members (the seven District Councils, Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council) will have agreed to membership by 16 December; Melton Borough Council will be the final Council to meet on that date. If all do agree, the formal proposals will be published and submitted to Government on 18 December 2015.
- 3.4 At the time of writing this paper, of the nine potential constituent member Councils, three have formally confirmed agreement to join at the Council level, including Hinckley and Bosworth, and a further three have approved joining at Cabinet/Executive level. By the time of the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission, we will know the final position of six Councils, with a further three still to follow by 16 December. I will update the Commission on the precise position at the meeting on 10 December.
- 3.5 It will be following the submission of the proposals on 18 December that the partnership work will commence in earnest with Government to negotiate the most effective arrangements possible and as soon as possible. It was for that reason that delegations were granted by Council on 10 November to the Leader and to the Chief Executive, so that the negotiations could be efficient, as well as effective.
- 3.6 Members will recall that the Leader agreed to consult with the Leader of the Opposition Group and the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission, before making any

formal commitments to other partners in the LLCA and to the Government, as part of these negotiations and he and I will ensure that this commitment is met.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [SA]

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report, in addition to those set out in the paper presented to Council on 10 November. Work continues between the Senior Finance Officers of the partner Councils to determine the overall costs of entry and the allocation of those costs between the participating Councils. As it stands, those costs will be allocated provisionally on the basis of: one third County Council, one third City Council and one third District Councils collectively. The District Council share is expected to be on a population share basis.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [MR]

5.1 A Combined Authority ("CA") will comprise shared administrative arrangements between local authorities in a particular area dealing with a range of matters.

5.2 The relevant legislation is the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ("The 2009 Act") and the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill ("The Bill") which will have its second reading in the House of Commons on a date to be advised.

5.3 Two or more authorities may perform a governance review of the effectiveness and efficiency of transport and/or the arrangements for promoting economic development and regeneration within their area and may subsequently publish a scheme.

5.4 If the Secretary of State, having considered the scheme, feels it will improve arrangements relating to transport and economic regeneration, then he may establish and Combined Authority by Order.

5.5 The Bill makes amendments and additions to the provisions in the 2009 Act and provides for a CA to be conferred a broader set of functions than economic development regeneration and transport and also for a function of a public authority to be undertaken instead by a CA.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The recommendations in this report will be positive effects on the following two priorities:

- Creating a vibrant place to work and live
- Empowering communities

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 A formal consultation will be undertaken by Government, once the submission has received initial consideration. It may be appropriate for a more local consultation in advance of that by Government.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

8.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project

have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

- 8.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Not to be formally engaged in whatever form of Combined Authority is developed within Leicester and Leicestershire will result in the Council's not being able to have maximum influence and benefit (including devolved powers) to be secured from improved effective joint working and integrated support to local regeneration.	Taking a clear decision for the Council to be a member of any Combined Authority in Leicester and Leicestershire, as a basis for further negotiations and discussions with Government on devolved powers.	Leader and Chief Executive

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 By pursuing this initiative, the expectation is that all parts of the community will benefit from an expanded economy and improvements in services which are better connected than now. The Council will need to ensure that the positive ramifications of an improved economy are shared more widely and fairly amongst our communities.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data Protection implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Report to Executive (4 November 2015) and to Council (10 November 2015)

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