

Cabinet

29th September 2020

Devolution and Local Government Reform

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to decide that:

1. Having regard to the decision made, and the views expressed, by the Council at its meeting on 22nd September 2020, the Strategic Case for Change should be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in order to seek from Government an invitation to enter into conversation and consideration of the future local government structure for Warwickshire
2. The Chief Executive is required to submit the Strategic Case for Change to MHCLG before close of business on 30th September 2020

1.0 Executive summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 22nd September, the full Council considered a report on Devolution and Local Government Reform. That report is attached Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The resolutions passed by the full Council on 22nd September 2020 are as follows:
 1. That, having considered the Strategic Case for Change for Local Government Reform in Warwickshire, the Council supports its submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in order to seek from Government an invitation to enter into conversation and consideration of the future local government structure for Warwickshire.
 2. That the Council considers that in the next phase of work to shape a future model for local government in Warwickshire, conversations should take place at all levels, including with residents, based on the following principles:
 - i. double devolution - moving influence and power closer to communities, levelling up health and wellbeing and tackling inequalities;
 - ii. ensuring that Climate Change and adaptation are built into a new model of local government;
 - iii. achieving better value for our taxpayers;
 - iv. simplified governance with clear, accountable leadership;
 - v. co-design of the model is undertaken; and

- vi. a balance of local focus with a strategic approach when needed.
 - 3. That the Council considers that a Residents' Panel should be established and that an invitation should be extended to the District and Borough Councils to do so jointly with the County Council, to seek the views of Warwickshire residents.
 - 4. That the Council requests that the Leader, following this meeting, considers inviting the Warwickshire District and Borough Councils to make their submission to MHCLG along with, and at the same time, as any submission made by the County Council.
- 1.3 This meeting of Cabinet has been called to enable Cabinet to decide whether, having regard to the outcome of the Council considerations, the Strategic Case for Change for Local Government Reform in Warwickshire should be submitted to MHCLG.
- 1.4 The decision is being treated as an urgent decision under the Council's Constitution.

2.0 Supporting information

- 2.1 The supporting information in respect of this matter is set out in the papers as published for the Council meeting of 22nd September 2020. This includes the Strategic Case for Change for Warwickshire and the supporting financial analysis, which have been developed by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) together with an Equality Impact Assessment. These documents are appended to this report at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The outcome of the Council meeting on 22nd September and the views expressed during that meeting should be taken into account by Cabinet when reaching its decision. The debate of this agenda item at full Council is available for elected members and the public to view via a YouTube link on the Council's website.

3. Environmental Implications

The opportunities for addressing climate change under a new governance model are set out in the Case for Change.

4. Financial Implications

The national fiscal situation, the financial challenges facing this Council and the financial analysis of local government reform are set out in the Case for Change.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

Having considered the views of Council, it is now for Cabinet to decide whether to submit to Government, the Strategic Case for Change.

This decision has immediate effect.

Appendices

1. Council Papers from 22nd September 2020 on Devolution and Local Government Reform – including Strategic Case for Change, financial analysis and Equality Impact Assessment

Background Papers

None

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