

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	COUNCIL	Item 10	Page 1 of 2
Report Originator	Helen Edwards Head of Democratic & Legal Services	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	ALL	12 th December 2018	
Title	THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ADVISORY COMMITTEE		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the establishment of a local government reform advisory -committee responsible for the formulation and monitoring of the implementation of the council's plans for the transition and transformation into a new North Northamptonshire unitary council should its creation be approved by the Secretary of State. This will be a committee of Council.
- 1.2 To agree the terms of reference for the committee, set out at **Appendix A**

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 This Council, along with other Councils in Northamptonshire (with the exception of Corby Borough Council) submitted a proposal to the Secretary of State at the end of August 2018, proposing the reorganisation of Northamptonshire councils into two unitary councils, following an invitation from the Secretary of State to do so.
- 2.2 The Secretary of State commenced the statutory consultation on 29th November 2018, and this will end on 25th January 2019. The current proposal is that the new unitary councils should come into being in April 2020.
- 2.3 This report proposes the establishment of a time limited Local Government Reform Advisory Committee for the period 13th December 2018 to 31st March 2020. The composition of the committee is proposed to be 7, in proportion 5 members of the administration and 2 members of the opposition. Membership will include the respective Group leaders of the administration and main opposition group.
- 2.4 The committee will be responsible for considering the Council's position in respect of, overseeing transition plans as they affect the Borough and the existing Council, and considering issues of governance, finance and service delivery to feed into the collaborative arrangements of the five authorities planning for the new North Northamptonshire unitary council. The committee will therefore seek to ensure that, in so far as is possible, the interests of the people of the borough are protected and represented during and after the transition period.
- 2.5 The Research and Development Committee did agree in principle, earlier this year, to establish a similar body looking at aspects of the Council's functions and culture which it would like to see translated into the design of the new authority.

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This body has not been appointed to and has not met, and its role now is overtaken by the body proposed in this report.

3. **CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT**

3.1 None

4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None directly. This committee will influence the design of the new council.

5. **FINANCIAL RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Met from within existing budgets.

6. **HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None

7. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 S101 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a local authority may arrange for the discharge of any of its functions by committee, sub-committee or an officer of the authority.

7.2 The Local Government and Housing Act requires that the allocation of seats on committees shall be in proportion to the seats held on the council by each political group, namely five members of the administration and two members of the opposition.

8. **RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 Agree the establishment of a Local Government Reform Advisory Committee for the period 13th December 2018 to 31st March 2020

8.2 To agree the terms of reference for the committee as set out at **Appendix A**

Background Papers: None
Title
Date
Contact Officer