

## BOROUGH OF KETTERING

<b>Committee</b>	STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Item A1	Page 1 of 2
<b>Report Originator</b>	Martin Hammond – Executive Director	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> N/A	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	ALL	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020	
<b>Title</b>	LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM AND THE STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE		

### 1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Committee on forthcoming changes

### 2. **INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Subject to parliamentary approval of the Structural Change Order now before it, the county council and the seven district and borough councils in Northamptonshire will be abolished on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and replaced with two unitary (all purpose) councils, one for the North of the county and one for the west.
- 2.2 In May 2020, elections to the new authorities will take place, and those councillors elected will serve on a Shadow Council between May 2020 and April 2021, before assuming full responsibility for service delivery at that point. The Shadow Council will co-exist with the outgoing councils, who retain service delivery responsibility for that transitional period. The Shadow Councils' role will be to design the constitution, structure and operation of the new councils, appoint senior staff, fix the first Council Tax and agree the first year's budgets.
- 2.3 This Standards Advisory Committee's remit will continue in relation to the outgoing Kettering Borough area until April 2021, when it will cease to exist, alongside all other aspects of the governance for the Council.
- 2.4 The Shadow Council will need to determine its constitution and the standards arrangements that reinforce it. It will need to appoint an independent person and a new standards advisory committee, and to do so reasonably soon in the transitional period. Existing members of Standards Committees across North Northamptonshire may wish to express interest in serving on the new committee, and there will be a formal recruitment process to populate the new committee.

#### **Independent Person**

- 2.5 Mike Sawford is the Independent Person for Kettering Borough. His current, extended, term of office comes to an end in April 2020. Given the impending changes, it is suggested that his term of office should be extended for the final year, up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The views of this Committee on that extension are

## BOROUGH OF KETTERING

<b>Committee</b>	STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Item A1	Page 2 of 2
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sought, so that they can be reported to the Borough Council at its February meeting.

### **3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT**

3.1 None as a result of this report

### **4. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None as a result of this report

### **5. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None as a result of this report

### **6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None as a result of this report

### **7. RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 The Committee is asked to note the changes brought about by local government reform

7.2 The Committee's views on extending Mike Sawford's term as Independent Person are sought.

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Background Papers:

Title

Date

Contact Officer

Previous Minutes/Reports:

Ref:

Date: