

## NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Joint Committee</b>	Item 9	Page 1 of 4
<b>Report Originator</b>	Paul Goult	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> N/A	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	ALL	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Appointment of Implementation Team</b>		

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

For the Joint Committee to confirm the designation of the Programme Management Office (PMO) as “the Implementation Team” as required by the Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2020.

### 2. BACKGROUND

Under s.26 of the Structural Changes Order not later than 21 days of the Order coming into force, the Joint Committees established in Northamptonshire must form a team of officers (“the Implementation Team”) for the purposes of assisting –

- (a) The relevant Joint Committee in the discharge of its functions under this Part; and
- (b) If, after the dissolution of the relevant Joint Committee, the relevant shadow authority so requires, that shadow authority.

### 3. REPORT

As the Joint Committee is aware, prior to the Order coming into force sovereign councils across Northamptonshire entered into a voluntary agreement to establish a single team of officers to assist with preparations for the creation of two new unitary councils in Northamptonshire.

The following resolutions were agreed by sovereign councils in 2018 –

*Subject to the submission of “Northamptonshire Local Government Reform Proposal” by any council, Council endorses the Chief Executive’s deployment of resources required to progress work on the next steps including those ahead of any decision by the Secretary of State, up to a maximum of £500,000 to be taken from existing budgets and/or reserves; and*

*Subject to the submission of the “Northamptonshire Local Government Reform Proposal” by any council, Council approves the interim governance structure of a Northamptonshire Central Programme Team overseeing a West Northamptonshire Project Board and a North Northamptonshire Project Board for the preparatory phase leading up to shadow authorities.*

## NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Joint Committee</b>	Item 9	Page 2 of 4
------------------	------------------------	-----------	----------------

The current Programme Management Office (PMO) was created with the agreement of sovereign councils arising from these resolutions. The Office under the direction of the Strategic Delivery Director (Theresa Grant) consists of seconded officers from the sovereign councils and staff directly recruited externally.

The current Office supports the work of the various work streams, as previously reported to the Joint Committee, for the creation and administration of the Shadow Council, arrangements for the continuation of service delivery on Vesting Day and initial preparations for the unitary councils. In addition, the Office seeks to support the principles of the Transformation Programme through the various work streams.

Appendix A to this report outlines diagrammatically the broad programme structure currently operating and which is recommended by this report.

It is recognised that the Shadow Councils will ultimately determine the governance and service delivery models of the two new councils, however the Office has initiated important work to provide baseline data and early consideration of options for service delivery.

It is proposed that the Office and Implementation Plan continues in its current format until consideration by the new Shadow Councils once established. Section 26 of the Order requires that a team be designated as “the Implementation Team”. The role of the team will be to continue the work undertaken to date for the preparation ahead of the Shadow Council and the longer-term Implementation Plan for the unitary councils.

Section 26 (3) of the Order requires the lead officer of the Implementation Team to be the Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Council (Theresa Grant).

Section 26 (4) of the Order also requires deputy lead officers to be appointed, one from the North sovereign councils and one from the West sovereign councils.

There is a duty placed on sovereign councils within the Order to co-operate in the establishment of the team and allow for the release of officers on their existing staffing establishment to assist in the team’s activities. All sovereign councils have directly through both financial and staffing resources contributed to the establishment of the team.

The team (PMO) has operated to date through the leadership of the Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Council; this is continued under the Order.

## NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Joint Committee</b>	Item 9	Page 3 of 4
------------------	------------------------	-----------	----------------

Graham Soulsby (Kettering BC Chief Executive) is operating as the deputy leader of the PMO for the North; and George Candler (Northampton BC Chief Executive) as the deputy leader of the PMO for the West.

The Implementation Team will support the respective Joint Committees until the Shadow Councils hold their inaugural full council meetings. The Joint Committees will be dissolved on the day following those inaugural meetings.

The new Shadow Councils will need to affirm that the Implementation Team continues through the Shadow Period in its current format, or may propose a revised structure. The team will be required to support the Shadow Council and continue to oversee preparations for Vesting Day on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and the agreed implementation and transformation programme.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Costs associated with the operation of the team are being met from the previously agreed contributions from the sovereign councils. The Joint Committee receives regular financial reports on the cost of the programme, including staffing costs.

During the budget setting process for 2020/21 recently considered by sovereign councils, a further £1.9m was requested by each council towards the further costs of transformation, transition and formation of the two new unitary councils. This was in addition to the £0.5m previously committed by each council.

The costs incurred and committed by the Joint Committee will be drawn from these funds.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is a legal requirement under the Order for the sovereign councils to form a joint committee, for the purposes of implementing specific duties and responsibilities ahead of the establishment of the Shadow Council. Sovereign councils established a joint committee in anticipation of the passing of the Order. The terms of reference of the joint committee were subsequently revised, and approved by sovereign councils, once the contents of the draft Order were clarified.

The Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2020 was made on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The Order is now in force. There are obligations and responsibilities placed directly on the Joint Committee prior to its dissolution once the full Shadow Council meets in May 2020. These are detailed within the Order.

## NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Committee	<b>Joint Committee</b>	Item 9	Page 4 of 4
-----------	------------------------	-----------	----------------

### 6. **CONCLUSION**

The Order places responsibilities on the Joint Committee and sovereign councils.

Designation of the Implementation Team and of the deputy leader officers for the team ensures compliance with section 26 (1) and 26 (4) respectively.

The Shadow Councils, once established, will need under s.26 (1) (b) to affirm their continued support for “the Implementation Team” in its current or revised format.

It is being proposed that the existing Programme Management Office are designated as “the Implementation Team” and undertake the duties and responsibilities as directed by the Order and the Joint Committees.

### 7. **RECOMMENDATION**

- i) **That the Programme Management Office be designated as “the Implementation Team” for the purposes of the Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2020 with immediate effect;**
- ii) **That it be noted that the leader of the Implementation Team is the Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Council (Theresa Grant);**
- iii) **That it be noted that Graham Soulsby (Kettering BC Chief Executive) is the deputy leader of the Implementation Team for the North, and that George Candler (Northampton BC Chief Executive) is the deputy leader of the Implementation Team for the West.**

Appendix A - Future Northants Programme Delivery Structure February 2020

Background Paper

The Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2020 SI 2020/156