

REPORT OF THE
CABINET
PART I

145X. DEVOLUTION – POSITIONING THE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Cabinet at its meeting on 22nd June 2015 considered a report on devolution from the Chief Executive outlining the preference for a Wider Hampshire Model, based on the County Council with the District Councils and the adjacent Unitary Councils of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. A few days prior to the Cabinet meeting the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association (HIOWLGA) unanimously agreed at its meeting on 19th June to support the Wider Hampshire Model as a basis for a Combined Authority covering the County Council, the eleven Districts and the three Unitary Councils.

2. It was noted that this was not another tier of Government but a potential future governance arrangement that would allow Central Government and its agencies to devolve to a new Combined Authority, public services activities and functions that were traditionally carried out by Government departments and their agencies. In developing a devolution deal for the wider Hampshire area members at HIOWLGA agreed that it should cover skills, business support, infrastructure and transport, housing and planning, health and social care, double devolution around county services and future funding models.

3. It was also agreed at HIOWLGA that each individual Local Authority within the Wider Hampshire Model would seek the approval of their Council to take forward negotiations on the basis of the HIOWLGA agreement and the Wider Hampshire Model.

4. Whilst Cabinet agreed (and a report from the Leader is contained in Item 16a later on the agenda) that authority be delegated to the Leader and Chief Executive to develop these negotiations, it would be therefore appropriate at the first available County Council meeting, to approve the Wider Hampshire Model as the basis for our future involvement as a Council in developing a Combined Authority.

RECOMMENDATION

That the County Council agrees the proposed approach as set out above.