

REPORT OF THE  
**Cabinet / Leader**  
PART II

**237. REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF DELOITTE ON OPTIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN HAMPSHIRE, AND PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION**

1. At its meeting on 6 June 2016 Cabinet noted that events leading up to and since the 2016 Budget had placed the integrity of the County Council's services at risk, through the proposed Solent and Heart of Hampshire devolution deals and confirmed the County Council's intention not to endorse either the Solent or Heart of Hampshire combined authority proposals before conducting a full public consultation on all options for local government in Hampshire.

2. The results of an independent study, commissioned by Hampshire County Council from Deloitte, on options for local government in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight were received and noted, in particular the conclusions that:

- i. There is a strong financial and non-financial case in favour of a new unitary authority covering the current administrative county of Hampshire ('Hampshire Council', Option D in Deloitte's report) as the best model for local government reorganisation in Hampshire;
- ii. There is a comprehensive and compelling case against all of the options which lead to any unitary council that splits the county of Hampshire.

3. Cabinet welcomed the report and agreed the importance of setting out the County's position in light of the range of proposals from other Authorities. It was acknowledged that if it were to be implemented, Option D would lead to the disestablishment of the existing County Council and Hampshire district councils, and the creation of a new unitary 'Hampshire Council' covering the existing Hampshire administrative boundaries.

4. It was highlighted that the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Combined Authority proposals had been agreed by all parties, but did not progress because it was not possible to agree that the model include an elected Mayor, as later insisted upon by Government, especially without the support of the electorate. It was proposed and agreed to add the option of a Hampshire and Isle of Wight Combined Authority model to the public consultation as a further alternative to the models set out in the Deloitte report. Members had between them extensive experience of different tiers of local government and accepted that the two-tier system had many strengths. However they had a responsibility to taxpayers to provide both efficient and effective government and therefore were duty bound to consider options that could save £40 million per year.

5. Cabinet agreed to give delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Member for Policy and Resources, to appoint an independent organisation to design and implement a consultation on the basis of the proposals set out in section 12 of the report and on the Combined Authority proposals

for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight agreed by all partners in September 2015; if possible, in partnership with other HIOW authorities.

6. Further details can be found at [www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm) by typing in the relevant reference number:

- 7577 (search item reference)

**COUNCILLOR ROY PERRY**  
**Leader of the Council**