

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	14 November 2016
Title:	Further update on Local Government Review
Reference:	7925
Report From:	Chief Executive

Contact name: John Coughlan, Chief Executive

Tel: 01962 845252

Email: john.coughlan@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

1.1. That Cabinet:

a) Recognises the lack of support from residents for the County of Hampshire being divided into multiple Unitary or Combined Authorities, nor for services being provided at County level being split into smaller fragments.

b) Reaffirms its determination to respect residents' wishes by keeping Hampshire intact and maintaining the strong preference for the existing local government system as long as that remains viable.

c) Aims not to split or weaken service delivery which could negatively impact on the quality of services and decision making being provided to Hampshire residents. This would also deal a significant blow to the scale and efficiency of the highways service provided by the County Council in the rest of the county, and unnecessarily complicates maintenance arrangements at a time of reducing resources and rising demands.

d) Agrees that there is at this stage no imperative to submit proposals to Ministers for a Unitary Council for Hampshire, but that this remains open as an option.

e) Agrees that any of the following would necessitate further proposals to be considered by the County Council:

i) a decision by the proposed Solent Combined Authority, or any other Combined Authority, to extend its geography into Hampshire;

ii) evidence that there is no longer support among District and

Borough Council Leaders in Hampshire for sustaining the current multi-tier system;

iii) a further deterioration in the County Council's financial prospects particularly in relation to sustaining services to vulnerable residents, which the Serving Hampshire consultation identified as residents' top priority;

iv) evidence of a significant increase, objectively measured, in public support for local government reorganisation;

v) a clear indication from Ministers that local government reorganisation is their preferred outcome in Hampshire;

f) Confirms that, in considering the invitation to join the proposed Solent Combined Authority, the County Council should not be party to any agreement that goes against its residents' wishes by breaking up its services or which is not open to the whole County.

g) Confirms that the County Council strongly opposes Hampshire District Councils joining the proposed Solent Combined Authority unless all such Councils are admitted, which would provide for a Hampshire-wide solution.

h) Agrees that the proposal for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Combined Authority (or Hampshire County Combined Authority) be revisited in discussion with partners, all of whom were party to signing the original proposal to Government.

i) Offers that the County Council shall continue to discuss these matters with Government, local partners and the community of Hampshire.

j) Notes that separate reports will be brought to a future Cabinet meeting regarding improved engagement with businesses and Town and Parish Councils in Hampshire.

2. Reason for the decision:

2.1 To set out the Cabinet's position on local government review options in light of the feedback received from the consultation.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. None.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.
6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.
7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

14 November 2016

**Chairman of the Cabinet
Councillor Roy Perry**