

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Martin Hammond – Executive Director	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	12 th June 2018	
Title	UNITARY COUNCILS TASK AND FINISH GROUP		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the terms of reference for the proposed unitary councils task and finish group.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its last meeting, this committee agreed that it would like to establish a task and finish group which addressed aspects of the transition to unitary local government structures.
- 2.2. This report proposes terms of reference for the task and finish group which are intended to make the best use of member and officer time and have the most beneficial impact on the transition.
- 2.3. The challenge in setting up a task and finish group is asking it to consider issues which have a realistic chance of impacting on the final shape of a unitary council. The nature of the proposed change - amalgamating five councils into one – and the very short timescale in which a submission has to be made and then implemented mean that all lasting decisions about the shape of the new council would be made either in the submission to government, to be completed before the end of August 2018, or by the shadow authority which would be created, in all likelihood, from April 2019 and which would comprise representatives from the five outgoing councils.
- 2.4. There is, therefore, very limited scope for a task and finish group from within one of those local authorities on its own to determine what will happen post 2020, nor will it be able to scrutinise the actions of a multi-party shadow authority with any authority of its own.
- 2.5. In addition, given the very short timetable until the end of August for a submission to be made, and the collaborative nature of putting that together, there is no prospect that any task and finish group would be able to influence that product; it has to be the preserve of full Council to seek to do that.
- 2.6. It is therefore proposed that the task and finish group focus on what aspects of Kettering Borough Council's current profile that it would wish to preserve into the new authority – in effect what part of our current "DNA" members most

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value and want to keep. This could then be a guide for those KBC members representing us on the shadow authority.

3. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1. To consider those aspects of the approach to service delivery taken by Kettering Borough Council which members value and which should therefore ideally inform the principles and operational set up of the new unitary authority; in particular

- resource and asset management
- performance management
- customer service standards
- partnership working
- organisational culture
- member and officer roles
- ceremonial/mayoral profile
- public engagement and consultation
- support to the voluntary sector

3.2 To consider the merit or otherwise of establishing a parish council or councils for the currently unparished area of Kettering town.

3.3. To consider specific aspects of the transition to unitary authorities as may be requested by the Council or the Executive Committee

3.4. To formulate recommendations for consideration by the Council, the Executive Committee and/or partner agencies during the transition phase.

4. FINANCE and HR RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Given the work required to support the transition phase, there will be very little officer time available to support an extensive work programme; the work listed above will need to be front loaded to have impact and the majority of the work of the task and finish group would need to be completed by the end of the calendar year if it is to have impact.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The committee is asked to endorse the proposed terms of reference in section 3 above and to confirm the membership of the task and finish group.

Background Papers:

Previous Reports/Minutes: