

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Referred from the Local Government Reform Advisory Committee	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	6 th March 2019	
Title	LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM – NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STRUCTURAL CHANGE ORDER PREFERENCES		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To set out the Council's preferences for the content of the North Northamptonshire Structural Change Order (SCO) to propose to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government as set out in **Appendix A**.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Secretary of State's (SOS) eight-week public consultation on whether to accept the joint proposal submitted by 7 of the 8 Local Authorities in Northamptonshire is now closed and the responses are being given due consideration.
- 2.2 Subject to that consideration, the SOS decision could ultimately lead to a Parliamentary decision to establish a new unitary authority for a West and North Northamptonshire in spring 2020, with a shadow unitary authority as the interim transition body from early to late summer 2019.
- 2.3 An important element in this process of becoming a Unitary Authority is the drafting and making of the Structural Change Order (SCO).
- 2.4 The SCO is drafted by the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government in the exercise of his powers within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. All final decisions about the content of the SCO are a matter for the SOS.
- 2.5 There are two key reasons as to why it is important for this Council to consider the content of the SCO at this point.
- 2.6 Firstly, although the SCO is the ultimate decision of the Secretary of State (SOS) it is clear that there will be the opportunity for formal dialogue between representatives of the Local Authorities and the MCHLG prior to the drafting of the SCO. Therefore it will be important to be clear about the North Northamptonshire preferences as to its content.
- 2.7 Secondly, once the SCO is made by parliament, the first meeting of the "Shadow Authority", must be held not later than 14 days after the coming into force of the

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order. Therefore, it will be important that all the background work relating to the content of that first meeting, as laid out in the SCO, has been completed.

- 2.8 Preferences for the content of the SCO has been considered by the members of the Local Government Reform Advisory Committee at its first meeting on the 17th January and the North Northamptonshire Steering Group for local government reform. As such the contents in **Appendix A** represent the views of both of those bodies.

SCO Content

- 2.9 Attached to this report at **Appendix A** is a table that includes:

- a) The issues likely to be included within the SCO; and
- b) The current preferences outlined by this Councils Local Government Reform Advisory Committee (LGRAC) and the North Northamptonshire Steering Group.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 3.1 None

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5. FINANCIAL RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Structural Change Order is made by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in the exercise of the powers conferred by sections, 7,11,12 and 13 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (a) ("the 2007 Act"). A draft of the order would be laid before, and need to be approved by a resolution of, each of House of Parliament in accordance with section 240 (6) of the 2007 Act.

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8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the preferences expressed by the Local Government Reform Advisory Committee as outlined in Appendix A be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; and
- ii) Any changes to the submitted draft Structural Change Order, as arising from negotiations with Government officials, be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council where not expedient to formally report back to Full Council or duly appointed LGRAC.

Background Papers:

Title

Date

Contact Officer

Previous Minutes/Reports:

Ref:

Date: