

Report of the Chief Executive**Local Government Reorganisation****1. Purpose of Report**

To update Councillors on the latest position regarding local government reorganisation in Nottinghamshire.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

On 19 March 2025 at the Broxtowe Borough Council Extraordinary Meeting on Local Government Reorganisation, the Council resolved that:

1. This Council notes the content and the intention to submit the interim plan for local government reorganisation in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire by 21 March 2025.
2. This Council cannot support a merger with a new Council which encompasses the current City Council boundary which is in a dire financial position and disadvantages Broxtowe residents and ignores their concerns and wishes, making it impossible to have the frank and open discussions essential to forming a successful long-term plan based on service delivery.
3. That Council considers the statement of risks and concerns set out in appendix 4 and agrees to note this to accompany submission of an interim plan on behalf of Broxtowe.
4. Any future reorganisation should be based on community needs and service delivery rather than plugging shortfalls in local government financing. Any process should empower local communities to share their voice and should not be confined to a narrow suite of options.
5. This Council calls upon the government to suspend the Local Government Review proposals in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire pending the financial stabilisation of Nottingham City Council which will allow for a full democratic consultation with the residents of Broxtowe to take place.

This Council rejected providing delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer to set aside an earmarked reserve of £150,000 or more from an anticipated General Fund underspend in 2024/25 for the purposes of funding the cost of Local Government Reorganisation in the event of central government capacity funding being delayed and/or not sufficient.

A letter was sent to the Government conveying this resolution. Feedback from the Government on the interim plan was received which was reported to the previous Cabinet meeting and to full Council.

Further work done by PWC, on behalf of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, in appraising the interim plan options is now able to be published and is attached in **Appendices 1** and **Appendix 2** to this report.

A meeting of Leaders was held in Newark on 11 July 2025 at which these appendices were discussed. There were varying opinions regarding the merits of option 1b (City/Broxtowe/Gedling) and option 1e (City/Broxtowe/Rushcliffe).

It is clear that option 2 (City on its existing boundaries and a new Unitary County for the rest of Nottinghamshire) is not a good match against the Government's criteria.

Further discussions are taking place regarding the practicality of progressing both options 1b and 1e to full business case.

Meanwhile both the City Council and Rushcliffe are progressing their own (different) models which they may or may not then pursue to full business case detail.

It is important that Broxtowe remains fully engaged in the process of local government reorganisation. Whilst its current position remains as outlined in the Council motion previously stated; it is important that Broxtowe is able to highlight to partners and the government some of the important implications of these choices for the future wellbeing of Broxtowe's residents, most particularly around:

- Future housing and employment land allocations and the risks to green belt in our area
- Managing homelessness if there is a wider City unitary
- Converging of Housing Revenue Accounts (HRA)
- Avoiding economic shocks for residents around council tax convergence; rent levels and council tax support
- Potential jeopardisation of new house building programmes and the building of a new leisure centre
- Safeguarding assets which generate income and community assets which contribute to community wellbeing (e.g. community and sports centres)
- Community support generally and the importance of arts culture and heritage which this Council has always worked to protect and enhance.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Assistant Director Finance Services were as follows:

The Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer and the Assistant Director Finance Services continue to be engaged, through the Nottinghamshire Finance Officers Association (NFOA), in supporting with the financial aspects of the options appraisal process completed by the consultants PWC.

The assumptions made by PWC have been challenged and reasonable assurances have been provided as to transition costs and potential savings. Further detailed work will continue in developing the full business case of the preferred option(s) once these are confirmed.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

At this stage there are no direct legal implications in relation to this report due to the developing nature of the reorganisation, these will not become clear until later on in the devolution process.

6. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

7. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

8. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

9. Background Papers

Nil.