

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

To give an update report on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Nottinghamshire.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the report

3. Detail**3.1. Community Engagement Exercise**

Since Cabinet last received an update on Local Government Reorganisation, a county-wide engagement exercise has been launched. A Local Government Reorganisation Conssurvey is live and open until 14 September 2025. In Broxtowe a mail-out to every household in the Borough of this survey has been dispatched, including some additional Broxtowe questions, enabling residents to express their support or lack of support for each of the two main options (1(b) being City/Gedling/Broxtowe and 1(e) being City/Rushcliffe/Broxtowe). The county-wide survey does not refer to the City Council's extended boundary option as it was felt in Nottinghamshire that this was insufficiently certain to legitimately enable residents to express a view. Despite this, the City Council did include their potential expanded boundary option in their consultation. However residents in Gedling, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe have not been consulted on it.

The Council will also be holding two in-person engagement sessions for residents and members of the community to come and hear a short presentation on LGR and then ask any questions to Senior Officers. There will be one held in the north and one in the south of the Borough, the details of which are below:

- Wednesday 27 August at Beeston Council Offices, 6.00pm - 8.00pm
- Thursday 4 September at Eastwood Town Council, 6.00pm - 8.00pm

At the time of the writing of this report, approximately 5,000 survey returns had been made across Nottinghamshire. Around 500 of these are from Broxtowe. Figures will be updated at the meeting.

3.2. Programme Management Framework

Appendix 1 sets out how the Council's governance framework will operate for local government reorganisation, and the links that will be made in to the Nottinghamshire LGR Programme Board, the Nottinghamshire Chief Executive's Group, and the Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (on which Joint Committee the Leader of the Council is represented).

It also sets out the terms of reference, objectives and responsibilities of a new Broxtowe LGR Implementation Group which will comprise senior officers of the Council.

3.3. Countywide Implementation activity

The City Council will not have completed work to develop its extended City unity model for another few weeks. Accordingly, it is not yet known exactly where the boundaries for that new unitary would be, or whether that authority or the remaining unitary authority in the North of Nottinghamshire, would be economically viable. It is also not yet known how the City's proposed governmental structures would match the Government's criteria. No detailed joint working to take forward that option has been started.

Similarly, the County Council has not yet determined which model of local government reorganisation it will support.

Broxtowe Borough Council's position on Local Government Reorganisation has been made quite clear, in that it will not support an option which involves Broxtowe becoming part of a wider City unitary.

3.4. Option 1e (City/Rushcliffe/Broxtowe)

A Nottinghamshire officer group has been set up to progress detailed business case modelling for option 1 (e).

Broxtowe has put forward officer representatives for this group in order to ensure that any issues which are of interest and concern to Broxtowe's residents are identified. This does not mean the Council is supporting this option – it simply gives officers the power to influence and be informed about the development of this business case.

So far, a number of workstreams have been identified. Broxtowe has nominated lead officers for each of these, who are highlighted below:

- Workstream 1: A proposal should seek to achieve for the whole of the area concerned the establishment of a single tier of local government. BBC representative: Planning Manager
- Workstream 2: Unitary local government must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. BBC representative: Chief Accountant
- Workstream 3: Unitary structures must prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services to citizens. BBC representative: Assistant Director Environment Services
- Workstream 3 has also established a number of sub-groups looking at specific areas of the organisations, such as Environment, Customer Services, ICT

etc.. It is likely that these groups will be seeking more detailed analysis of the areas to support in building the Business Case.

- Workstream 4: Meeting local needs and informed by local views AND Workstream 6: Stronger Community engagement and opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment - BBC representative: Principal Communications and Cultural Services Officer
- Workstream 5: New unitary structures must support devolution arrangements. BBC representative Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services

These groups meet fortnightly.

3.5. Option 1 (b) – City/Gedling/Broxtowe

It is likely that once the implementation group for option 1b is mobilised (assuming it does not fall away after the County and City determine their position) then the Council will need to have similar officer representation on that group.

3.6. City Council extended boundary option

If the City Council decide to pursue this option Broxtowe may be invited to be part of any implementation planning activity. However, no discussion has taken place about this at present.

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 in conjunction with the consultants PwC and supported by CIPFA.

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:

Whilst there are no direct legal implications arising from this report, it does detail the work that is currently being conducted by key Officers and details what will be required thereafter to ensure progress. Furthermore, public engagement is

key for the Council to seek resident's views on these important proposals. As the process develops the legal implications will emerge and relevant commentary will be provided at each stage of the process.

6. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

No comment.

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

From UNISON's perspective, we would request that managers who are members of the various workstreams consider the impact on employees and the protection of their terms and conditions wherever possible.

8. Climate Change Implications

Climate change will be one of the service issues considered as part of the reorganisation process.

9. 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. A Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted and the Council are expected to become signatories. This document will set out the arrangements for data sharing in relation to LGR information. At this stage it is not anticipated that any personal data will be exchanged prior to the submission of the full business case in November.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

No equality impact assessment issues at this stage.

11. Background Papers

Nil.