

Report of the Chief Executive

Local Government Reorganisation1. Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update on the ongoing preparatory work being undertaken across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in relation to Local Government Reorganisation.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

Members will be aware that work continues across Nottinghamshire in preparation for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

Recruitment to the Central Programme Management Office (PMO) team, hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council, is progressing. At the time of writing, the shortlisting process has been completed, and interviews are scheduled to take place during July for all 15 positions identified in wave one of the process. These opportunities were made available to staff across all Nottinghamshire councils, which has been reflected in the applications received.

Since the previous update, Nottinghamshire County Council's LGR Director has submitted their notice and will be leaving the organisation. In response, partners across Nottinghamshire have put additional arrangements in place to ensure continuity of leadership and programme delivery whilst recruitment is undertaken to fill the vacant position.

Alongside this activity, work is being undertaken to develop the governance arrangements that will be required following the Secretary of State's decision on the future structure of local government in Nottinghamshire. This includes the development of an appropriate programme governance framework, together with the identification of key work themes and workstreams that will support implementation. These proposals are currently being refined and will be presented to Chief Executive Officers in the near future for consideration and agreement.

At the time of writing, the Council has not received notification of the Secretary of State's decision regarding their preferred LGR proposal for Nottinghamshire. A decision is anticipated before the Parliament Summer Recess on 17 July 2026. Should an announcement be made prior to Cabinet, a verbal update will be provided to Members at the meeting.

Officers will continue to engage with partners across Nottinghamshire and will provide further updates to Members as the programme progresses and additional information becomes available.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer continues to work with the Nottinghamshire Finance Officers Association (NFOA) on LGR matters, having previously supported the NFOA with the financial aspects of the options submitted in November 2025. The earlier work was completed in conjunction with the consultants, PwC, and supported by CIPFA. The assumptions made by PwC were challenged and reasonable assurances have been provided as to transition costs and potential financial savings that could be achieved by LGR.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer were as follows:

The approval of any proposal under the Act is an executive function in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 Section 9D(2). The Executive will, therefore, be required to make a final decision on approving the Council's proposal for submission, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Council, which is a consultee in relation to this matter.

6. Human Resources Implications

There were no comments from the Human Resources Manager.

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

It is probably too early at this stage to make any firm comments until the situation affecting members of staff are fully known. Regular engagement with staff to make them aware of progress and to seek their views on these important proposals is essential to maintaining good staff morale moving forward. We do accept that as the LGR progresses then the implications on staff will be clearer and then we feel that relevant feedback from Unison will thus be provided.

8. Climate Change Implications

Not applicable.

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.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Nil.