

Report of the Chief Executive

DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE REFORM1. Purpose of report

To request approval for expenditure to respond to a request from the Secretary of State, should it be made, that proposals be put forward for a review of local government structures in Nottinghamshire.

2. Background

The County Council has written to the Secretary of State requesting that he issues an invitation to Nottinghamshire Councils to bring forward proposals for local government reform. The District Councils and the City Council have also written to the Local Government Minister, requesting that a Unitary County option be not the only option considered and that time be allowed for the development of alternatives, should the Secretary of State be minded to issue an invitation.

It is understood that a white Paper on Devolution and Local Recovery is to be published shortly, which may set out some proposals about review of local government structures.

District council leaders have agreed to work together with other partners (including the County and City) to consider alternatives should the Secretary of State require it, and to jointly commission work (which will be a less expensive way of working than individually), to produce evidence in relation to the options, which will be required. A figure of up to £30,000 for each authority may be necessary.

3. Financial implications

The funding of £30,000 will be taken from the council's reserves.

Recommendation

The Committee RECOMMENDS to the Finance and Resources Committee that a supplementary estimate of up to £30,000 be established for the commissioning of work required in connection with a review of local government structures in Nottinghamshire.

Background papers

Nil