

Cabinet

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	31 January 2018
<u>Cabinet Member(s)</u> Rebecca Knox – Leader <u>Lead Officer(s)</u> Jonathan Mair – Head of Organisational Development	
Subject of Report	Consent to orders under the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act
Executive Summary	<p>The full County Council has received a series of reports concerning local government reorganisation in Dorset and has supported the submission of a proposal to the Secretary of State which, if approved, would see Dorset's current nine principal local authorities replaced by two new councils. The Secretary of State has made a "minded to" decision to support change and his final decision is awaited.</p> <p>Local government reorganisations in England last took place in 2009 under provisions contained in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. This legislation has now been updated through the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 which includes provision for the Secretary of State to make regulations concerning local authorities' electoral arrangements, their governance arrangements, their constitution and membership and structural and boundary arrangements.</p> <p>The powers in the 2016 Act enable the Secretary of State to bring about local government change more simply and efficiently than under the previous arrangements. However, the power of the Secretary of State to make regulations under section 15 of the 2016 Act requires the consent of at least one relevant local authority for the area. In order to provide complete geographical coverage and coverage across tiers of local government the County Council, Bournemouth Borough Council, the Borough of Poole and one district (West Dorset District Council) are being invited to consent to the making of orders.</p> <p>As the County Council has already resolved to seek local government change in Dorset the consent now being sought under the 2016 Act is a technical measure designed to facilitate and make the process simpler, should the Secretary of State support change.</p>

Consent to orders under the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act

Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment: An equalities impact assessment has been carried out of the proposal to the Secretary of State. The consent now being sought does not involve any change of approach and is not thought to impact upon those with protected characteristics any more than upon the general population.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence: Cities and Local Government Devolution Act and its explanatory notes.</p>
	<p>Budget: This report creates no new budget commitments.</p>
	<p>Risk Assessment: This report sits within the wider context of local government reorganisation but of itself consent to the regulations raises no particular risks.</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk: LOW</p>
	<p>Other Implications: None</p>
Recommendation	<p>The Cabinet is asked to give the Chief Executive delegated authority after consultation with the Leader, so that she may provide all necessary consents to enable the Secretary of State to make regulations under section 15 of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 to enable local government reorganisation in Dorset to take place.</p>
Reason for Recommendation	<p>In order to enable the Secretary of State to make regulations so that local government reorganisation may take place simply and efficiently.</p>
Appendices	<p>None</p>
Background Papers	<p>Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016</p>
Officer Contact	<p>Name: Jonathan Mair Tel: 01305 224181 Email: j.e.mair@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

Jonathan Mair
Head of Organisation Development
January 2018