

Extra Ordinary Executive Committee 16th January 2017 Exploring Options for the Future of Local Government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset

For Recommendation

Portfolio Holder

Tony Alford: Leader of the Council

Senior Leadership Team Contact:

M Prosser, Chief Executive

Report Author: Matt Prosser

Statutory Authority

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Section 15 of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016

Purpose of Report

- 1 To invite Members to agree to make a submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting the restructuring of local government in Dorset along the lines set out in the recommendations below.

Officer Recommendations

- 2 To recommend the following to Council;

That this Council agrees:

- a) That there has been a powerful public response acknowledging a compelling case to change local government structures in Dorset.
- b) That a submission should be made to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting that the existing nine county, district and unitary councils should be replaced by two new unitary councils.
- c) That based upon the weight of public opinion and the financial and other analytical evidence the two new unitary councils should be based upon the following local authority boundaries;

Unitary A: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, plus the services currently provided by Dorset County Council in this area.

Unitary B: East Dorset , North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, plus the services currently provided by Dorset County Council in this area.

- d) That the Chief Executive be authorised, after consultation with the Leader, to agree the wording of the submission to the Secretary of State demonstrating our ambition for public sector transformation and drawing on the evidence that has been presented to councils, to be made along with any other council that has agreed to support the same option for reorganisation.
- e) That the Chief Executive be authorised, after consultation with the Leader, to work with other councils that support the same option for reorganisation to develop and implement appropriate plans and allocate appropriate resources to progress local government change in Dorset and that a report on next steps be presented in due course.”

Reason for Decision

- 3. In order to respond to the future challenges facing local government.

Background and Reason Decision Needed

- 4. This report invites Members to consider the recommendations above which relate to the formation of two new unitary councils in Dorset to replace the existing nine councils. Members are referred to the standard report attached at appendix 1, which sets out the evidence concerning these proposals and the reasoning both in relation to the principle of reorganisation and the option being recommended. The standard report has been agreed by all the Chief Executives for the councils in Dorset.

Implications

5. Corporate Plan

This report engages all Corporate Plan priorities.

6. Financial

The financial implications are set out in the text of the standard report.

7. Equalities

An equalities impact needs assessment is attached to this report as appendix 2 and its implications for this decision and any subsequent decisions are referred to in the standard report.

8. Environmental

No implications specifically arising from this report, although if a decision is made to proceed with local government reorganisation, subsequent decisions will have environmental implications.

9. **Economic Development**

No implications specifically arising from this report, although if a decision is made to proceed with local government reorganisation, subsequent decisions will have economic development implications.

10. **Human Resources**

No implications specifically arising from this report, although if a decision is made to proceed with local government reorganisation, subsequent decisions will have staffing implications.

Consultation and Engagement

A significant public consultation exercise has been carried out across Dorset, which is referenced extensively in the standard report. A summary of the consultation responses from residents in the Council's area is attached as appendix 3.

Appendices

Appendix 1: The standard report entitled Options for the Future of Local Government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset

Appendix 2: The Equalities Impact Needs Assessment, referenced in the standard report.

Appendix 3: Dorset's Councils – Reshaping your Councils Consultation 2016: West Dorset – Key Results

Background Papers

The three full reports from Local Partnerships, Opinion Research Services and PWC, which are referenced by a link within the standard report.

Footnote

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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