

**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC  
PROSPERITY COMMITTEE – 4 FEBRUARY 2019**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Government Reorganisation in N2 - The Position of Nottingham City Council</b>		
<b>Presenting authority / representative):</b>	Colin Monckton, Director of Strategy and Policy, Nottingham City Council		
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	James Schrodel, Policy and Performance Manager, <a href="mailto:james.schrodel@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">james.schrodel@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> , 0115 876 1040		
<b>Key Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Subject to call-in</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Value of decision:</b> £0		<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> Capital
<b>Authorities affected:</b> All	<b>Date of consultation with relevant authorities:</b> N/A		
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities):</b>			
<b>Statement of Nottingham's position</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nottingham City Council welcomes the County Council's decision to pause its plans for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).</li> <li>2. We believe that successful LGR in N2 would require that the City is included in any proposal(s), and that all N2 local authorities work together on any future plans collegiately.</li> <li>3. Nottingham City Council commenced its own LGR work as we believe that the wider N2 area would be disadvantaged by LGR that resulted in Nottingham being the 'hole' in a very large County 'doughnut' unitary.</li> <li>4. The City Council said we would match the County Council's preparations for LGR. Therefore we will pause once our current Research and Engagement exercise is completed.</li> <li>5. Both LGR proposals recognise the potential for improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of local government.</li> <li>6. We believe that LGR is only one way in which these improvements may be achieved. There remains an opportunity to develop our shared services and other joint working approaches - without LGR - where there is mutual benefit.</li> <li>7. The County Council's Business Case highlights areas where working as one will benefit all areas in the pursuit of efficient and productive local government.</li> <li>8. N2 should aim to investigate the benefits that could stem from these and other areas of joint working through better coordination of our efforts rather than through LGR.</li> <li>9. The EPC is the best forum we have for coordinating joint working in N2. We should explore how best to utilise the EPC to cooperate on services better.</li> </ol>			
<b>Exempt information:</b> None			
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We recommend that the Chief Execs are tasked with re-examining the opportunities around shared services and joint working and are asked to report back at a future meeting of the EPC with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o An up-to-date list of all current shared activity in N2, setting out whether and where there are opportunities for shared services or other joint working to be expanded</li> <li>o An analysis of best practice in shared working elsewhere in the Country with a summary of lessons learned that could be taken forward in N2</li> <li>o A long list of candidate areas for potential collaboration, with a set of proposed criteria that could be used to help prioritise those candidate areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>			

## **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1.0 Next Steps – shared working**

- 1.1 We acknowledge that the need for more collaborative work in N2 is increasing not decreasing.
- 1.2 This approach will contribute to managing our shared ongoing budget pressures. We would support the harmonisation of some services in order to seek further economies of scale where there is mutual benefit, evidenced through robust business cases and inclusive of citizen and stakeholder support.
- 1.3 Nottingham would support options for further collective work across N2 that include the City.

## **2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 Like the County, the City will complete its own Outline Business Case arguing the case for LGR in N2 that includes the City and then pause its work.
- 2.2 Our work followed the announcement by the County Council that they would work on their own proposals that excluded the City. The County's case for change was published in December.
- 2.3 Civil Servants have confirmed that the 2007 legislation being used by the County proposals was also able to be used by the City Council
- 2.4 Proposals that are submitted to the Secretary of State by Councils cannot cut across district boundaries. Whole districts must be either included or excluded in any proposal.
- 2.5 For this reason, Nottingham conducted its research and engagement exercise with people living in the four districts surrounding the City.
- 2.6 Civil Servants have confirmed LGR proposals will be considered where all councils consent or where the Secretary of State offers an invitation based on guidance that will be issued in due course.
- 2.7 The LGR guidance will be published in "due course".

## **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 None.

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

- 4.1 None.

## **5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)**

- 5.1 None.

**6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 None.

**7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

Has the equality impact been assessed?

- (a) not needed (report does not contain proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions, financial decisions or decisions about implementation of policies development outside the Council)
- (b) No
- (c) Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

An EIA is not required because the report does not contain any changes to policy.

**8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)**

None

**9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT**

None