

**REPORT TO THE STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 17<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020  
AGENDA ITEM 6**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

Report of:	Paul Smith – Director of Transformation <a href="mailto:psmith@tandridge.gov.uk">psmith@tandridge.gov.uk</a>
Executive Team Lead Head	Paul Smith – Director of Transformation
Publication status:	Unrestricted
Recommendations:	That the Committee approves a contribution of £10,000 to support work on a joint District and Borough Council outline proposal for the development of alternatives to a single unitary structure for Local Government in Surrey
Appendices:	A – Letter to Secretary of State from Surrey Leaders’ Group 23/07/2020 B – Letter to Secretary of State from Tandridge District Council 22/07/2020
Background papers defined by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985	N/A

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Government White Paper on local government reform is due to be published in the autumn of 2020. This is likely to overhaul the current two-tier district/county council model across the country.
- 1.2 In Surrey, all 11 District & Borough Councils have agreed to work together to look at models of Local Government in Surrey, both recognising that change is needed but also that having a single unitary council for the whole of the county is not a sustainable model. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020, a joint letter on behalf of all Surrey District Councils was sent to the Secretary of State. A copy is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.3 Full Council, at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020, approved a motion calling upon the Secretary of State to consider alternative models to the single unitary council favoured by Surrey County Council. A letter was sent to the Secretary of Sae to this effect on 22<sup>nd</sup> July (Appendix B).

**2. Next Steps**

- 2.1 The Leaders of the Surrey District Councils have now agreed a joint approach to scoping a set of options to ultimately form part of a bid to the Secretary of State for a multi unitary council model across Surrey. At present, it is not known what these options could be. It would be hoped that this work would consider both financial and non-financial aspects.
- 2.2 To enable this work to be undertaken, each Council has been asked to contribute £10,000 towards engaging with consultants.

2.3 No consultants have been appointed yet but any decision as to whom to appoint would need to be subject to due diligence by officers within each Council.

**3. Financial / risk implications**

3.1 It will be important for Tandridge to be involved in this joint working with all other District and Borough Councils on proposed alternative options to a single unitary council for Surrey. However, there is currently no budget to accommodate the £10,000 contribution and the initiative will result in an overspend.

**4. Legal implications**

4.1 The outline proposals and recommendations under consideration in this report are a matter for this committee. However, given the significance of the options for possible unitary council models, the matter should be referred to the next Full Council for more detailed consideration and debate.

**5. Equality impacts**

5.1 A key part of the commissioned work will involve carrying out equality impact assessments of the different models of Local Government in Surrey.

**6. Data Protection impacts**

6.1 Following the completion of a Data Protection Impact Assessment, consideration of potential data protection implications arising from this report are as follows:

Questions	Answer
Do the proposals within this report have the potential to contravene the Council's Privacy Notice?	No
Is so, what steps will be taken to mitigate the risks referred to above?	N/A

**7. Conclusion**

7.1 Approval is sought for a contribution of £10,000 towards the work set out in this report

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