

Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Glenfield on Friday 6 July

183. Urgent Item - East Midlands Strategic Alliance and Unitary Government in Leicestershire.

The Committee considered an urgent report of the Chief Executive, concerning the East Midlands Strategic Alliance and a unitary structure for Leicestershire. The report was urgent because an announcement had been made about this after the agenda for the Cabinet meeting had been published and clarification about the proposed timetable was required before the next Cabinet meeting. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman said that there would be a thorough and comprehensive consultation on the proposals for a unitary structure and he hoped that the Overview and Scrutiny bodies would actively seek views from members throughout the Authority. He had spoken with County MPs and was aware of some concerns and, with Mr. Rhodes, planned to meet with them in the autumn to discuss the proposals in more detail. The engagement with the public, public and private sector bodies and other stakeholders would be clear and accessible and he looked forward to receiving feedback on the proposals. Linked to this, a Strategic Alliance with neighbouring upper tier authorities would strengthen the local and regional economies.

**RESOLVED:**

(a) That the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources be requested to work with counterparts in the region in the development of a Strategic Alliance for the East Midlands;

(b) That work be undertaken on the development of a unitary structure for local government in Leicestershire;

(c) That the following timetable for consideration of the above be approved:-

Cabinet 16<sup>th</sup> October To consider outline proposals and agree to engage with stakeholders on options.

Scrutiny Commission 14<sup>th</sup> November To comment on the outline proposals.

Cabinet 23<sup>rd</sup> November To consider the outcome of stakeholder engagement and the way forward.

County Council 5<sup>th</sup> December To debate the proposed way forward recommended by the Cabinet.

**REASONS FOR DECISION:**

To provide a framework and timetable for consideration of proposals for a unitary structure for Leicestershire in the context of a Strategic Alliance for the East Midlands.