

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 06 June 2016

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Policy and Resources
<b>Subject:</b>	Local Governance in Hampshire
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Strategy/Policy:</b>	Corporate Strategy
<b>Corporate Objective:</b>	

**Purpose:**

To consider a request for contributions towards commissioning a review of options for effective governance of local services.

**Executive summary:**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, the Leader of Hampshire County Council announced that Deloitte had been commissioned to provide an analysis of the estimated costs and risks against the financial and non-financial benefits of a range of options for local governance across the geographies of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The options were centred around the creation of Unitary models of governance on different geographical areas.

The commission was carried out on behalf of Hampshire County Council, and the report will be considered at its Cabinet meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Hampshire Leaders, Chief Executives and other interested parties met on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, where the County Council presented its report and outlined plans for a public consultation in relation to the options analysis. At the meeting, Leaders of Boroughs and Districts generally felt that a broader consultation on a joint basis with the various tiers of local government would be more beneficial, particularly in light of the emerging discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government over possible devolution opportunities in the parts of the county.

In order to carry out a meaningful and productive public consultation exercise, it is felt that a broader perspective of the options and relative merits for local service delivery is essential. Due to the inherent limited scope of the report commissioned from Deloitte by Hampshire County Council, it is felt that this does not represent a sound basis for a broad consultation, and that further work would be necessary.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have subsequently agreed to lead on a further commission, and have invited financial contributions to broaden the scope of

their work and to enable this to be undertaken expediently.

Separate expertise may also be necessary to prepare a range of consultation questions that can usefully inform the development of governance arrangements going forward.

**Recommendations:**

The Executive are asked to

- (a) consider making available up to £25,000 to support the development of a broad analysis of options that could be used to inform a public engagement exercise for local governance arrangements in Hampshire, and associated consultation work; and
- (b) grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Leader, to determine the appropriate method of delivering the work and commit the funding.

**Reason:**

To enable the Council to contribute to a governance commission.

**Cost of proposals:**

It is recommended that up to £25,000 is made available from general fund reserves.

**Background papers: None**

**Reference papers:**

[Initial analysis of options for local government in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight - Executive Summary report](#)  
(external link)

[Initial analysis of options for local government in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight - Full Report](#) (external link)

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Andrew Wannell (01329 824620)