

Dear colleagues,

Local Government Reorganisation

As you know, there is an item on the next Council meeting agenda inviting a debate on Local Government Reorganisation. For this debate the rules on debate in the Council Procedure Rules will be suspended to allow Councillors to speak more than once and to fully debate the issues and options surrounding Local Government Reorganisation. This is being done to allow every Councillor as much opportunity as possible to speak and express their view.

As a follow Councillor for the District, I am confident that you will want to contribute to this very important debate and to express your views on where you see local democracy in the future – governance structures changed or unchanged.

The Rules of motions and amendments will remain in place to ensure clarity over the motion that is passed at the end of the debate. We need to ensure everyone is clear what we are saying at the end of this debate.

I've asked the SMT to prepare various scenarios for this debate based on the content of the letter from Robert Jenrick of July this year which deals with this subject, devolution deals and elected mayors. All of this discussion is in preparation for a Government White Paper on the subject at some time in the future. Probably October/November.

At the end of this briefing is a list of functions for Unitary, District, County and Metropolitan Councils for your information.

In the meantime you may want to give thought to some of the issues raised in the letter:

- That the Government want devolution deals to go beyond the large cities.
- That the Government want devolution deals based on a wider geographical area such as a County.
- That strong local leadership is fundamental, but that this does not necessarily mean directly elected mayors.
- That there is an expectation of demonstrable improvement in governance, efficiency and joining up of local services that will support the delivery of levelling up.
- That Government believe that the specific powers and flexibility given might be helpful to allow you to deliver improvements rather than simply adding funding asks.
- That those areas with the clearest, most innovative and readily deliverable proposals that support levelling up will be prioritised.

Also

- What other governance models are available?
- What will any reorganisation under this scheme do to local democracy and the voters' perceptions?

- Will the loss of services that may be part of this be justifiable and an improvement for the electorate?
- What affect will this discussion and any decisions under it have on Parish and Town Councils?

Finally I wanted to let you know the Government has decided not to put forward any new legislation covering this reorganisation. It is to be done under existing legislation and by agreement.

If you have any questions in advance of the meeting, do not hesitate to ask me or one of the Directors. You may well have ideas that are essential for the debate to cover all aspects of the issues.

I look forward to debating this with you on the 8th September.

Steve Fritchley,

Leader of the Council

Functions of the tiers of Local Government				
	Shire Areas			Metropolitan Areas
	Unitaries	County Councils	District Councils	Metropolitan Districts
Education	✓	✓		✓
Highways	✓	✓		✓
Transport Planning	✓	✓		✓
Passenger Transport	✓	✓		✓
Social Care	✓	✓		✓
Housing	✓		✓	✓
Libraries	✓	✓		✓
Leisure and Recreation	✓		✓	✓
Environmental Health	✓		✓	✓
Waste Collection	✓		✓	✓
Waste Disposal	✓	✓		✓
Planning Applications	✓		✓	✓
Strategic Planning	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local Taxation Collection	✓		✓	✓
Climate Change	✓	✓	✓	✓
Elections	✓		✓	✓