

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND
EMPLOYEES****RESPONSE TO 'HANDS OFF GEDLING' PETITION PRESENTED TO THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee the response to the petition presented to the County Council on 13 December 2018 entitled 'Hands Off Gedling'.

Information

2. A petition of 1,315 signatures, collected between July and November 2018, was presented to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Michael Payne. The petition stated "Keep your hands off Gedling. We are opposed to the scrapping of Gedling Borough or any takeover of its boundaries".
3. The petition was developed in response to Nottinghamshire County Council's work to explore the structure of local Government in Nottinghamshire and the development of an outline case for change, which included an examination of potential options for unitary councils.
4. A discussion of the outline case for change was scheduled to take place at December County Council. On the 11 December 2018, the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council, Councillor Kay Cutts MBE, made the decision to withdraw the Outline Business Case from consideration at the County Council meeting on the 13 December 2018.
5. In a statement released on 11 December, the Leader explained that she had decided to pause and reflect. Specifically, the Leader referenced a meeting with Leaders and Chief Executives of District and Borough Councils, which had taken place a few days prior to the withdrawal of the Outline Business Case. The Leader described this meeting as productive, saying that the Leaders and Chief Executives "are willing to work with us on the delivery of local services but we all need more time to consider and discuss the potential options".
6. Since 11 December, the Leader has been in correspondence with some of the District and Borough Council Leaders and the Chief Executive of the County Council has met with District and Borough Council Chief Executives to examine opportunities for joint-working.
7. On 4 February, the Economic Prosperity Committee met and there was an agenda item on Local Government Reorganisation, which included a discussion on the potential for joint working.

8. It is anticipated that the Government will issue guidance on Local Government Reorganisation later this year, as the so called “sunset clause” comes to an end. Specifically, this guidance is expected to explain the criteria for invitations that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government will apply to any further invitations to submit proposals for Local Government Reorganisation.
9. As the petition was submitted to County Council during this period of pause and reflection, the contents of the petition have been noted. Gedling Borough Council, as one of the seven district and borough councils in Nottinghamshire, is involved in any discussions about the future of local government in Nottinghamshire as part of our efforts to consider viable options for solving the significant financial challenges that local authorities face.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 1) The update on Local Government Reorganisation contained in this report be noted and the Lead petitioner be informed accordingly.
- 2) The outcome of the consideration by Policy Committee be reported back to Full Council.

Marjorie Toward

Service Director - Customers, Governance and Employees

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (HD 30/01/19)

11. Policy Committee is the appropriate Committee to consider the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (NS 05/02/19)

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Media Statement on Local Government Reorganisation issued 11th December 2018
- Outline Business Case

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- **ARNOLD NORTH – Cllr Michael Payne**
- **ARNOLD NORTH – Cllr Pauline Allen**
- **ARNOLD SOUTH – Cllr John Clarke**
- **ARNOLD SOUTH – Cllr Muriel Weisz**
- **CALVERTON – Cllr Boyd Elliott**
- **CARLTON EAST – Cllr Nicki Brooks**
- **CARLTON WEST – Cllr Jim Creamer**
- **CARLTON WEST – Cllr Errol JP Henry**
- **NEWSTEAD – Cllr Chris Barnfather**