

From: [FOI](#)
To:
Subject: Freedom of Information Request NCC-046931-20
Date: 02 December 2020 11:56:00

Dear

Thank you for your request for information about recent proposals to merge Nottinghamshire County Council with the local district councils.

As you are aware, I have previously written to you to advise that we were carrying out a public interest test and so required some additional time to respond to your request. This work is now complete and we are able to provide the following information in response to your specific requests:

1) Minutes of any meetings that have taken place where this has been discussed.

These meetings have no minutes taken, and so we are unable to provide any.

2) Any and all reports regarding the benefits and/or drawbacks of the merger.

The Council has recognised the local interest by creating the microsite on the public website which provides a vast amount of information which the council is committed to it updating with new information when it is available.

This information can be found at <https://future.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/>

The Council is picking up where we left off with the Outline Business Case 2018. This is the starting point and is available online (Outline Case for Change 2018) available on the microsite <https://future.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/the-story-so-far/> where you can also access reports outlining the benefits and or drawbacks of the proposed merger.

3) Any and all analysis regarding the benefits and/or drawbacks of the merger.

Detailed financial analysis has been commissioned, and is summarised at an appropriate level in the reports published on the microsite. This documentation has been provided to the Council in confidence therefore we have carried out a public interest test to decide whether the arguments to support the disclosure of this information outweigh the arguments against disclosure.

Following consideration of the public interest test we have concluded that the release of this document into the public domain would likely damage the relationship of confidence between the Council and its author. And so we consider that to release this is not in the best interest of the public. We are therefore exempting disclosure of this analysis under Section 41 of the freedom of Information Act – Information Provided in Confidence

4) Copies of contact (including email, letters etc) regarding the potential merger; this includes contact from and between; councillors, members of staff and external persons/companies/consultants that have been involved.

To search email accounts and correspondence of all councillors, members of staff and external persons/companies/consultants that have been involved in discussions about this subject would require searches to go back over a number of years and take one officer longer than 18hrs working exclusively on that task to do so. We are therefore applying an exemption under S12 of the FOI Act because the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit

5) Copies of any current and previous planning about how this would be implemented.

The previous Business Case (Outline Case for Change 2018, link provided above) contains some information on transition planning. We are still in the process of refreshing this for 2020, nothing has yet been agreed and so is not available for disclosure.

I hope that you find this information to be helpful, however if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, then you are entitled to ask for your request to be reviewed. If you would like to do so please email us at foi@nottscc.gov.uk quoting the reference NCC- 046931-20 and we will be happy to review your request

With kind regards

Complaints, Information and Mediation Officer
Nottinghamshire County Council
0115 9772788