

**EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE****CABINET**

**A record of the decisions made at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 23 March 2021, at 2.00 p.m.**

Present

Councillors

Giles Archibald (Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder) (Chairman)

Jonathan Brook	Deputy Leader and Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder
Philip Dixon	Customer and Commercial Services and People Portfolio Holder
Andrew Jarvis	Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder
Dyan Jones	Climate Emergency and Localism Portfolio Holder
Suzie Pye	Health, Wellbeing and Financial Resilience Portfolio Holder

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robin Ashcroft (Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder)

Also in attendance at the meeting were Shadow Executive Members Pat Bell (Shadow Cabinet (Health, Wellbeing and Financial Resilience Portfolio)), Roger Bingham (Shadow Cabinet (Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio)), Tom Harvey (Shadow Cabinet Leader (Climate Emergency and Localism Portfolio)), John Holmes (Shadow Cabinet Deputy Leader (Finance and Resources)), Helen Irving (Shadow Cabinet (Customer and Commercial Services and People Portfolio)), Kevin Lancaster (Shadow Cabinet (Housing and Innovation Portfolio)) and Mark Wilson (Leader of the Labour Group).

Officers

Lawrence Conway	Chief Executive
Linda Fisher	Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer)
Adam Moffatt	Specialist - Legal, Governance and Democracy
Simon Rowley	Director of Customer and Commercial Services
Helen Smith	Finance Lead Specialist (Section 151 Officer)
David Sykes	Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources

**CEX/152 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

Following confirmation that the live stream of the meeting had commenced, the Leader thanked Officer's for their hard work throughout the Covid-19 crisis and for ensuring the Council's work was continued. He also thanked Members for their commitment to working with officers and with communities in difficult times.

The Leader referred to the new Government legislation allowing councils to conduct remote meetings and explained in detail to all taking part, and for the benefit of members of the public, the procedures for the meeting. He then invited Members of the Cabinet, the Shadow Cabinet and the Leader of the Labour Group to introduce themselves, to advise whether they were taking part by video or audio and to confirm that they were able to see (where practicable) and hear all Members participating in the

meeting. All Members present, including the Leader himself, having indicated that this was the case, he referred to officers present at the meeting who would introduce themselves when asked to address the meeting.

### **CEX/153 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer) reminded Members that a dispensation had been granted to all Members with regard to allowances in respect of matters relating to Local Government Reform and Devolution for a period of four years.

The Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer) informed Members that, for Agenda Item No. 5 regarding Local Government Reform, councillors who were dual-hatted, i.e. District Councillors and County Councillors, would have an Other Registrable Interest under the Code of Conduct. The other registrable interest would be recorded and, unless any Member considered themselves to be biased or predetermined, they could speak and vote on the items.

### **CEX/154 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUDED ITEMS**

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

### **CEX/155 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No questions, representations, deputations or petitions had been received from members of the public in respect of this meeting.

### **CEX/156 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM - CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

#### **Summary**

Copies of Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, which had been marked "to follow" on the agenda had been circulated to Members and published on the Council's website on 19 March 2021.

The Leader of the Council and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder reported that at the meetings on 5 November 2020 Cabinet and Council had authorised the submission of an outline proposal to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The outline proposal was agreed by Lancaster City and Barrow Borough Councils and submitted by the required deadline of 9 November 2020. Since that date, work had continued on the development of the proposal which was submitted by the deadline of 9 December 2020.

The Leader informed Members that the Government had decided to consult on all four proposals for Local Government Reorganisation and that the Council would be providing a response to the other proposals. He highlighted the extensive consultation being undertaken by the Council to reach out to stakeholders as well as members of the public and that other proposals were set out in the report, which included the following:-

- The Bay and North Cumbria;
- Two unitary in Cumbria;
  - Eden, Carlisle and Allerdale/ Copeland, Barrow and South Lakeland (proposed by Carlisle and Eden as North and South unitaries');

- Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland/ Barrow, South Lakeland and Eden (proposed by Allerdale and Copeland Councils as East and West unitaries); and
- Single Unitary for Cumbria (proposed by Cumbria County Council).

The Leader of the Council and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder informed Members that the final submission would be taken from the wording of the documents attached at Appendix 1 and 2 to the report, with minor amendments being made by the Chief Executive. He confirmed that any major changes would be brought back to Council for a decision before the final submission date of 19 April 2021. The Leader of confirmed that the Council would not be submitting a response to the proposals for North Yorkshire.

No questions having been raised, the Leader asked the meeting if the motion was agreed. There was no dissent.

### Decision

#### ***RESOLVED – That:-***

- (1) The update on the consultation process following submission of the Bay Unitary Proposal was received;***
- (2) The approach of the Council to the consultation responses as outlined in the report and Appendix 1 was endorsed;***
- (3) The approach to submitting additional commentary on The Bay and North Cumbria proposal as outlined in Appendix 2 was endorsed; and***
- (4) The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader was authorised to finalise the response to the consultation for submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 deadline.***

### Reasons for Decision

Supporting our economy to thrive and benefit all our residents. It supports the outcome that our Borough will have a strategic role within Cumbria and as part of the Lancaster and South Cumbria City Region. A unitary authority will support improving all outcomes for the Borough.

### Alternative Options

There is an option not to submit a proposal. This would mean that the opportunity and benefits of a unitary council, based on the footprint of the three councils, would not be considered by Government alongside other proposals submitted. The full proposal indicates the benefits and opportunities which could be realised for residents and businesses. These would be foregone if a proposal were not submitted. By not submitting a proposal, the Council would significantly reduce its influence in the reorganisation of local government. This option is not recommended.

The meeting ended at 2.17 p.m.