


RECORD OF EXERCISE OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY OFFICER PURSUANT TO REGULATION 13 OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012 & THE OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014

<u>SUBJECT OF DECISION</u>	
To respond to the Governments request for an update on interim plans for Local Government reform and devolution within Warwickshire.	
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	<u>SOURCE OF AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE</u>
DO/80/2025 (TS)	29 th January 2025 – Cabinet CB78 Local Government Devolution b) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive Officer, following consultation with the Leader to continue to work with HM Government, Consultants, Industry bodies, Local Stakeholders, and neighbouring Local Authorities to represent the interests of Nuneaton and Bedworth, and to explore and negotiate options for the Borough.
<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	<u>DECISION MAKER (Name and Job Title)</u>
21/03/2025	Tom Shardlow Chief Executive Officer 

RECORD OF THE DECISION

a) The issue

The Government has requested that all two-tier areas of Local Government work towards proposals for establishing new unitary authorities.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, asked that proposals are formed for formal submission by November 2025, and that an initial update around proposals was to be provided in March 2025.

On this basis, Warwickshire Councils have worked in parallel to draw initial proposals for the County. The five districts and boroughs have provided an interim plan which details two potential options for Warwickshire, a single County unitary, and a second North / South two County unitary model. The latter would see a Northern unitary that covers the geography of North Warwickshire Borough, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and Rugby borough, and a Southern unitary, that spans Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts.

Warwickshire County Council have drafted a further interim plan, which recommends a single County Unitary.

However, despite the difference in initial views, the Warwickshire submissions are submitted under a single letter, signed by all Leaders, which details the two offers.

The March submission has no statutory bearing, and as such it is unlikely that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will provide feedback which limits any option. As such it is likely that both sets of work will continue over the coming months to draft a formal submission for the November deadline.

The decision records the event of the interim submission to Government.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

To provide a formal record of the submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government update on the 21st March 2025.

The submission is to be made by one Warwickshire authority on behalf of all others and is countersigned by the respective Leaders.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED IN MAKING THE DECISION

The request on the 21st of March has no statutory bearing and as such NBBC could fail to respond, without clear consequence. However noting the need to work collaboratively towards the November deadline, it is felt that this would be an unwise strategy.

WARD RELEVANCE

All Wards

<p><u>FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>None at this point. However Local Government Reform has a profound impact on finances and service delivery going forward.</p>
<p><u>CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN WITH MEMBERS/OFFICERS</u></p> <p>Assistant Director – Democracy & Governance (Monitoring Officer) Strategic Director – Corporate Resources (Deputy CEO) Leader of the Council</p>
<p><u>ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY ANY MEMBER CONSULTED</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><u>IN RESPECT OF ANY DECLARED CONFLICT BY A CABINET MEMBER, ANY DISPENSATION GIVEN BY THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE</u> (Note if the decision is a non-executive decision, no dispensation can be given).</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><u>EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS (including any Equality Impact Assessment)</u></p> <p>No impacts identified at this point. However Local Government Reform has a profound impact on service delivery going forward.</p>
<p><u>HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>No impacts identified at this point other than additional workload to senior officers and advisors. However Local Government Reform has significant HR implications going forward, which will be detailed as identified.</p>
<p><u>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>A small sum has been set aside to support the work required. However Local Government Reform has a profound impact on finances and service delivery going forward, which will be detailed as identified.</p>
<p><u>HEALTH EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>No impacts identified at this point. However Local Government Reform has a profound impact on service delivery going forward.</p>
<p><u>SECTION 17 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>No impacts identified at this point. However Local Government Reform has a profound impact on service delivery going forward.</p>

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None identified. .

SME (SMALL/MEDIUM ENTERPRISES) & LOCAL ECONOMY IMPLICATIONS

No impacts identified at this point. However Local Government Reform has a profound impact on service delivery going forward.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No impacts identified at this point. However Local Government Reform has a profound impact on service delivery going forward.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No impacts identified at this point. However Local Government Reform has a profound impact on local democracy, and the associated legal entities of public service delivery.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

A further update will be provided to Cabinet in April 2025, which will include copies of the submission made.

The matter will return to Full Council before the formal November 2025 submission.