

COUNCIL 28 JANUARY 2010

Item 7
Scenario Planning for the Future



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REVIEW AND ITS
ALTERNATIVES**

Presentation by Pat Rockall, Chief Executive



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

- Boundary Committee Recommendations December 2009
- Representations to Secretary of State – agreed by Council 15 December 2009 – deadline for submission 19 January
- Draft Structural Change Orders – deadline for response 3 February – see agenda item 9



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

- Secretary of State decision – February?
- Legal challenges
- Will it happen?
- When will we know for certain, even if there is a “positive” decision soon?



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ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO: Plan B

- On-Going budget pressures for foreseeable future - £1.5m in 2011/12 and likely to be similar in 2012/13 and beyond
- In the absence of LGR, we cannot carry on without a radical alternative means of finding savings and efficiencies
- Cannot wait months for certainty of LGR outcome
- Item 8(b) on agenda



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POSSIBLE MERGER WITH MSDC

- Objective of Review: to assess scope for and benefits of full Managerial and Operational Merger by April 2011
- Review overseen by strong political governance arrangements
- Possible political integration into single council at later stage?



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POSSIBLE MERGER WITH MSDC

- Joint review of Council constitutions during 2010?
 - To secure as much similarity as possible for future joint decision-making between the two councils, whether within Committee or Executive arrangements
 - Possible move to Leader & Cabinet arrangements from April 2011
 - To pave way for constitutional merger at later stage if desired



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POSSIBLE MERGER WITH MSDC

- Role of Constitution Review Task Group
- Role and Membership of Proposed Joint Review Board



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SCENARIO PLANNING

Timeline:

- Parallel LGR and Merger Review through to Summer 2010?
- Clarity and single track from the summer
- LGR will bring intensive preparations in 2010 through joint arrangements with all councils (item 9)
- Merger will bring intensive shared service planning in 2010, together with constitutional review to December 2010 (item 8b)



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SHARED SERVICE PLANNING: REVENUES AND BENEFITS

- BDC/MSDC/IBC/St Eds
- Strategy 14/1/10 approved development of Business Case
- Completion : March 2010
- Stand alone or join existing



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ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- Savings/Quality/Resilience
- Common processes, IT and staff terms
- Political/managerial governance



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INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT OF BABERGH MEMBERS

- All Members : Briefing notes
- Representatives of PLG/Procurement Task Group : Engage with other Political Leaders
- Procurement Task Group : Scrutinise Business Case as it develops
- Strategy Committee (8/4/10) : Consider recommendation of Procurement Task Group
- Council (20/4/10) : Consider recommendations and make decisions



THE END GAME?

- A clear strategy for making the necessary savings and efficiencies
- Protection of key services through enhanced resilience
- A planned and managed process of change to survive financial pressures and secure sustainable service delivery

