

North East Derbyshire District Council

Council

11 July 2016

Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority - Consultation
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Report of the Chief Executive Officer

This report is public

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To set out details of proposals for consultation in relation to the Sheffield City Region (SCR) Mayoral Combined Authority and to seek approval for the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Leader, to submit a response on behalf of the Council.

2 Report Details

- 2.1 As part of the implementation of the SCR Devolution Deal and respective potential changes to the Combined Authority (CA) and its area arising from Chesterfield Borough Council and Bassetlaw District Councils Membership upgrade requests, consultation will be undertaken across the SCR area. This will commence on 1 July 2016 and run for a period of 6 weeks. The consultation will be delivered by MORI and it will end on 12 August 2016.
- 2.2 The consultation follows a governance review undertaken by the CA as part of the process of determining if expansion of its boundary and giving it new powers are likely to improve the exercise of statutory functions. As a consequence of this governance review a scheme has been produced setting out details of the area of the proposed Mayoral CA, distinguishing the Mayoral functions from the functions of the CA and detailing governance arrangements.
- 2.3 The link below sets out details of the consultation which provides a series of questions for respondents to answer. The link also provides details of the governance review and further information about the proposals. This link has been made available via the Councils website and it is intended that this will be done across all the respective Councils within the SCR area.

<http://sheffieldcityregiondevolution.org.uk/>

- 2.4 Once the consultation has closed a summary of the consultation responses will be put together by MORI. Details of this summary will be reported to a future meeting of the SCR CA meeting. It is envisaged this will take place in August following the end of the consultation. It is also envisaged that at this meeting the consultation summary will be discussed and endorsed and subsequently forwarded to the Secretary of State. The summary will then be considered by the Secretary of State as part of their decision to determine the membership upgrade requests for Chesterfield Borough Council and Bassetlaw District Council. This decision requires the Secretary of State to judge if the statutory test as set out within the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill 2016 has been met.
- 2.5 As previously reported to Members this test requires the Secretary of State to be satisfied that the proposed Membership upgrade requests are reflective of community identities, will secure convenient and effective Local Government and will improve the exercise of statutory functions.

3 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Council submit a formal response to the consultation. This is because it is affected by the proposals and should endeavour to ensure that the Secretary of State is aware of the Authority's position. This will help to ensure regard is given to the Councils view when the Secretary of State determines if the statutory test within the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill is met.
- 3.2 Additionally Members can make their own submissions to the consultation response either by using the electronic form or by submitting an individual letter.

4 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 4.1 Council determined in March to remain a non constituent member of the SCR CA. Therefore it will not form part of the Mayoral footprint. On this basis there is no change to the Councils relationship with the SCR CA and consequently no discrimination or disadvantage arises. As there is no change to the existing position an equality impact assessment is not required to eliminate or minimise discrimination or disadvantage at this time. If the Councils membership status of the SCR CA was subject to change then it is anticipated an Equality Impact Assessment would be undertaken in order to determine, minimise or eliminate disadvantage or discrimination.
- 4.2 The SCR CA previously undertook consultation across the SCR area on the proposed Devolution Deal for a six week period ending on 15 January 2016. A total of 245 responses were received to that consultation.

5 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 The Council can determine not to submit a response to the consultation. This would limit its ability to ensure the Secretary of State is aware of its position and views when determining if the statutory test has been made. This restricts the ability of the Council to influence the government decision and on this basis is rejected as an option.

6 Implications

6.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 6.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Previous reports to Council regarding the Devolution proposals and Mayoral CA for the SCR have highlighted the significant risks and uncertainties and consequential financial implications arising from the SCR Devolution Deal and Mayoral CA. However this report relates to the provision of a response to the consultation and as a consequence carries no direct financial implications.

6.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 6.2.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report. The governance review undertaken by the SCR CA as referred to in the report aims to be reflective of Section 111 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 as amended by the Cities and Local Government Act 2016. Additionally the proposed consultation by the SCR CA is aimed at satisfying statutory requirements for the potential extension of the CA area and the transfer of powers to a Mayoral CA.

6.3 Human Resources Implications

- 6.3.1 There are no direct Human Resource implications arising from the report.

7 Recommendations

7.1 That Council:-

- (1) Considers the consultation process as set out within the report in relation to the proposed SCR Mayoral CA and comments on it as necessary and
- (2) Requests that the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Leader sends a letter of response to the consultation on behalf of the Council.

8 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is an executive decision which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	N/A
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	
District Wards Affected	N/A
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	All

9 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
	None
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
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