

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report updates members on the progress made since the devolution proposal for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was considered by the Cabinet on 5 August 2015 (minute 11 refers). It provides an opportunity to review the prospectus document that is being prepared to support the bid, which is required to be with Government Ministers by 4 September 2015.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Leaders' Group that has been overseeing the preparation of the bid is preparing a prospectus to present the proposal to Ministers. The prospectus is expected to be received by this Authority on Friday 28th August, leaving all the authorities the opportunity for amendment, prior to sign off by the end of 2nd September. The prospectus will be circulated to members electronically in advance of the Cabinet meeting and published on the Council's website. It is understood that there will be a press conference on 4 September to support the submission of the prospectus to the Ministers on that day.
- 2.2 The bids received by Government on 4 September will enter a competitive process and it is therefore essential that the prospectus presents a proposal that addresses the particular needs of the area. In support of the prospectus a further technical annex will be submitted for consideration by Government officials. It is understood that Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has been positive in his responses so far to the Leader of Hampshire County Council.
- 2.3 Should the Government select Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for the development of a devolved model of government then further, detailed, consideration will need to be given to the full and wider implications of the deal that is on offer. The Council will retain the right to decide whether it wishes to participate in the "agreed deal", as will all the constituent authorities.
- 2.4 At this stage the Cabinet, on behalf of all members, is being asked to sign-off to the broad principles that have been developed so far, without prejudice to the longer term decisions that will need to be made. All Members of the Council are invited to attend the meeting of the Cabinet to participate in the debate.

3. PORTFOLIO COMMENTS

- 3.1 In the development of the deal with government we will continue to use our influence to ensure that it is in the best interests of our local community. We will continue to watch the evolving package and there will be further opportunities for our collective input prior to any "deal" being finalised.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the prospectus for submission to Ministers to present the bid for devolved powers for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight be endorsed.

For further information contact:

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Background Papers:

None