

'New council' for Leicestershire

County Council Leader, Nick Rushton, has said he wants to start a conversation about creating a unitary structure to replace the county council and the seven district councils.

**Better
Services**

**Stronger
Voice**

Savings

LECG

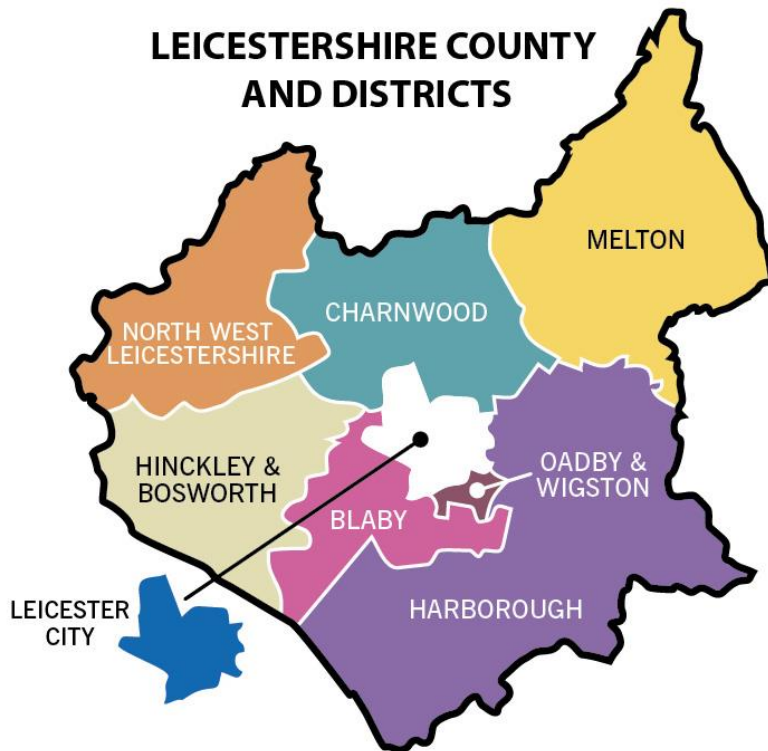
7 December 2018

Simon Lawrence
Major Programmes Manager
Chief Executive's Department

The financial challenge

- We've saved £200m since 2010, but can only balance budget for 2 years
- Nationally, there's further uncertainty: economic growth, tax increases unlikely, growing demand, NHS getting more funding and Brexit
- Fair funding remains uncertain - without new money impact is limited
- Proposed changes to how districts are funded mean they'll face financial challenges, which they've avoided till now
- We face unprecedented decisions on service cuts to remain sustainable
- Poor leadership and financial management led to the demise of Northamptonshire and a two Unitary model. Others may well follow

A unitary structure



Would:

- Replace the existing county council and the 7 district councils
- City council remains unchanged
- Significantly reduce the cost of local government (£30m/year)
- Protect and enhance frontline services, and minimise Council Tax
- Bring together services in a logical and efficient way as well as radically simplify how customers access our services, embracing digital advances
- Strengthen strategic leadership
- Strengthen the community leadership role of Councillors, and provide greater support to Town and Parish Councils

"This has to be about services for residents, not structures"

Nick Rushton

£30m/year Savings

(if the final model is a single council)

Where from	Outline detail
Having fewer Councillors and fewer elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 election every 4 years instead of 8 • 110 Councillors instead of 325
Fewer Senior Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Chief Executive instead of 8 • 1 Set of Directors instead of 8
Redesigning support services and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 finance, 1 HR, 1 payroll, 1 IT service, system and management team
Redesigning frontline service delivery and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amalgamation of 7 districts services • Integration county and district services
Fewer Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationalisation of building owned and run by 8 councils

Benefits of a Unitary Structure

General

- Consistency in service delivery across the County plus the integration of County Council and District Council services
- Single back office for the new council's service delivery
- provide one voice when working with the Government, Midlands Engine and other local and regional partners

Examples of service Improvements

- Improve public health by bringing together alcohol licensing and substance misuse treatment services all leisure services, sport and physical activity
- create one waste collection, disposal and recycling service, reducing confusion and the cost of contracts
- create one housing plan to support care leavers, children with a special educational need or disability, and vulnerable families
- join up services such as clearing fly tipping and street sweeping with minor highway maintenance, grass cutting, forestry and drain cleaning

What happens now...

When	What
Following the Cabinet meeting on 16 October	<p>Key stakeholder engagement on proposals including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPs, Districts, Health, Police, Businesses, VCS etc • Parish and Town Councils • Voluntary Sector groups • Community Groups • Staff Groups, Workers Groups • Unions



Drivers for change in Local Government

Financial

- Reduction of Income to the Council
- Increasing demand on Council services
- Future sustainability of Local Government (Northamptonshire...)

Modernisation

- New structure fit for the future
- Digital and commercial principles

Influence

- Simplified governance to strengthen Leicestershire's role in the East Midlands
- Partnership across the East Midlands to strengthen the region's national influence