



PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	12 NOVEMBER 2020
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGIES AND BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION LOUISE WOOD
TITLE OF REPORT:	BUDGET TO BRING FULL LGR PROPOSALS TO COMPLETION
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 On 5 November 2020, Full Council voted to submit an outline case for change, based on an East/West model of local government reform, to government by 9 November, with full proposals to follow by 9 December.
- 1.2 A contribution of circa £25k has already been paid towards the development of the outline case for change. However it is expected that further costs will be incurred in the process of bringing the full proposals together.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to ask for the Policy and Resources Committee to agree a maximum budget of £49k for this purpose, and to delegate the allocation of that budget to the Chief Executive Officer.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 It is recommended to the Policy and Resources Committee that:
- (i) A budget of £49k be set aside from reserves to funding Ryedale District Council's contribution to the cost of bringing a full proposal for local government reorganisation before government by 9 December.
 - (ii) Authority be given to the Chief Executive Officer to determine the appropriate allocation of that budget in accordance with the rules of delegation.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 This recommendation has been made in order to enable the necessary work to take place to bring a full proposal for an East/West model of local government reform before government by 9 December. This is a consequence of Full Council's decision on 5 November 2020 to submit an outline proposal as a first stage of the overall submission process.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 If sufficient budget is not provided, Ryedale District Council will not be able to participate fully in work to complete the full proposals. This could result either in proposals failing to progress for government consideration (which would be against the will of Full Council). Alternatively, it could result in Ryedale District Council being placed at a disadvantage in the coordination group, resulting in loss of influence over the final proposal, to the detriment of Ryedale's communities and businesses.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Central government has invited councils in York and North Yorkshire to submit proposals for local government reform across the geography.
- 5.2 On 5 November 2020, Full Council voted democratically to submit an outline proposal for an East/West model of local government reorganisation. Full proposals must be submitted by 9 December 2020.

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 On 5 November, Full Council voted to submit outline proposals for local government reform to central government by 9 November. The government expects full proposals to be put before them by 9 December.
- 6.2 There is considerable work to do to bring the full proposals forward. Wherever possible this work will be done using the personnel resources of the district and borough councils that have voted to submit the proposals. However some areas of the proposal require a high degree of technical or specialist input, within a short timeframe. It is therefore anticipated that additional, external, support will be required to bring some elements of the proposals (particularly those relating to functions currently performed by the county council) to full completion by 9 December.
- 6.3 Government has indicated that proposals should demonstrate a good level of support within the region for what is being proposed. As part of the proposal development work, a programme of activity will be required to engage with communities and businesses on the proposals prior to submission in December. Where possible, this work will be delivered using the personnel resources and communications channels of the district and borough councils involved in the proposal. However, it is anticipated that some costs will be incurred to reach out as widely as possible on the issue. The need to do so was raised by Elected Members at Full Council on 5 November 2020.

- 6.4 Six district and borough councils are engaged in the process of developing the full proposals. (These are: Craven, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby). Costs incurred in the process are being shared equally across the councils.
- 6.5 Scarborough Borough Council has agreed to hold a collective budget for the purpose of bringing the local government reform proposals to completion. Administratively, each council will pay an amount into the central budget, and this will be used to commission any necessary support for the project. Where it is logistically more practical to do so given the time constraints, some costs may be collectively agreed, but incurred by an individual council which will then invoice Scarborough Borough Council for the amount of the agreed spend. This will then be paid from the collective budget. Any funds not spent at the end of the project will be returned to the contributing councils. The spending of these costs will be proportionate to each council and fully transparent.
- 6.6 The development of the full proposals is a fluid process, and it is not therefore possible to predict exactly the cost of bringing them to completion. For this reason, the Committee is requested to agree a maximum budget of £49k. However, it should not be inferred that all of this will necessarily be required or spent. It will be incumbent on the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that any spend made from the £49k budget is necessary and proportionate and also to ensure that in due course members receive a report summarising how any funds were spent.
- 6.7 In the interests of practicality, and in recognition of the short timescales involved, it is recommended that the Chief Executive Officer be granted the authority, in line with the powers of delegation, to take decisions on how any monies from the £49k budget are spent, in order to fulfil the financial obligations of Ryedale District Council in relation to the delivery of the full proposals for government.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
A total budget of £49k to be allocated from reserves. This to be a maximum budget that cannot be exceeded. The actual spend will be allocated as necessary and may be less than the maximum of £49k.
 - b) Legal
There are no legal implications of this decision.
 - c) Other
This recommendation is being made in the interests of Ryedale District Council being able to participate fully in the development of proposals, in accordance with the will of Full Council and in the interests of Ryedale.

Louise Wood

Head of Communications

Author: Louise Wood, Head of Communications, Technologies and Business Transformation

Telephone No: 01653 600666 ext: 43223

E-Mail Address: louise.wood@ryedale.gov.uk