

# **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

## **DECISIONS MADE AT THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2007**

**Date of Publication: 15 June 2007**

**CALL IN PERIOD ENDS NOT APPLICABLE**

**In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Mayor has agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item.**

### **Notes:**

- (a) Decisions may be called-in by the Chairman or any three Members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (b) Requests to call -in must be delivered to the Committee Section (by phone, email or in writing) by the date and time specified.
- (c) In the absence of any call-in, decisions will take effect and can be implemented 5 working days after publication of these Decisions.
- (d) Decision marked \*\* may not be called-in as they were made under special urgency rules.

**Committee Section:**      **Email – [CommitteeServices@carlisle.gov.uk](mailto:CommitteeServices@carlisle.gov.uk)**

Ian Dixon – Head of Democratic Services	01228 817033
Elspeth MacKay – Senior Committee Clerk	01228 817034
Morag Durham – Committee Clerk	01228 817036
Rachel Rooney – Trainee Committee Clerk	01228 817039

**Decision Ref No:**

EX.145/07

**Subject Matter:**

**\*\* LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER, SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES - PROPOSED RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL TO CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL'S BID FOR A UNITARY AUTHORITY**

(In accordance with Paragraph 15 (i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Mayor has agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

(With the consent of the Chairman, and in accordance with Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules, this item had been included on the Agenda as a key decision, although not in the Forward Plan)

The Deputy Chief Executive presented Report PPP.47/07 setting out a proposed response, on behalf of Carlisle City Council, to Cumbria County Council's bid for a Unitary Authority.

The Council on 27 March 2007 (C.73/07) had considered an alternative approach to local Government in Cumbria, in response to the County's Unitary bid. The Council had approved the outline approach in principle and asked that a fully worked up model be provided for a future meeting of the Council.

The Deputy Chief Executive outlined the work which had been undertaken since the Council meeting in March 2007 and highlighted the discussions with, and feedback received from local MPs, Ministers and Officials in Central Government.

The report included a substantive extract from the final report of the Better Government for Cumbria Working Group which set out:

- (a) a critique of Cumbria County Council's bid for a Unitary Council for Cumbria;
- (b) a developed framework model, for illustrative purposes only, presenting alternative governance arrangements for enhanced two tier working in Cumbria based on the four Most Purpose Authorities;
- (c) additional financial analysis; and
- (d) analysis of a potential six Most Purpose Authority model, in response to the City Council resolution from 27 March 2007.

The Deputy Chief Executive also outlined the consultation which had taken place and submitted a summary of the results of a Cumbria wide MORI poll, which had contacted 1009 people during the period 15-28 May 2007.

The Leader updated Members on the outcome of the meeting with the Government Minister which he and the other 5 Cumbrian District Leaders had attended on 12 June 2007.

The Leader commented that the facts and figures in the report disputed what the County Council were saying in their bid and showed that the County's bid did not meet all of the required criteria.

The Leader referred to the MORI poll results, commenting that they showed that the public do not want a County Unitary bid. He highlighted that 72% of those surveyed

thought a single Council for Cumbria would be too remote and out of touch and that 69% believed that Cumbria was too big an area to be served by one Council providing all services. Eden District Council had commissioned an Electoral Reform Society poll which had similarly showed that the public did not support the County Council Unitary bid.

**Decision:**

That it be recommended to the City Council on 18 June 2007 to :

- (1) Oppose the Cumbria County Council Unitary bid on the basis of the supporting evidence drawn together by the Better Government for Cumbria Group and evidenced in Report PPP.47/07.
- (2) Delegate authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Town Clerk and Chief Executive and other Group Leaders, to prepare a formal response to Ruth Kelly MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, that presents the case for Carlisle City Council's opposition to Cumbria County Council's Unitary Bid and that this letter forms part of the collective response made by the 6 District Councils.
- (3) Note that the alternative proposals for local government in Cumbria are part of the argument against the Cumbria County Council Unitary bid and are not a blue print for change. The alternative proposals simply illustrate how another model based on enhanced two tier working may work. The proposals do not commit the City Council in any way, to any course of action should the County's Unitary bid fail;
- (4) Following any announcement by Government on the future of local government in Cumbria, Carlisle City Council should determine the appropriate way forward.
- (5) That the now established Member / Officer Group be delegated to:
  - (a) progress the opposition to the County's bid; and
  - (b) consider how the City Council would respond to the Government's decision.

**Key or Non-Key Decision:**

Key

**Key Decision Ref:**

General Exception

**Portfolio:**

Cross Cutting all portfolios

**Who made decision:**

Executive

**Date:**

14-Jun-07

**Reports and Background Papers considered:**

Report PPP.47/07 by the Town Clerk and Chief Executive

**Reasons for Decision:**

To make a recommendation to the City Council on a response to Cumbria County Council's bid for a Unitary Authority.

**Summary of Options rejected:**

None

**Interests declared**

None

**Date published**

15-Jun-07

**Urgent decision not subject to call in**

**Consent of Chairman/ Deputy Chairman of Council to Urgency:**

**Deadline for call-in:**

**Implementation date if not called-in:**

**Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

**Call-in notified to and date notified:**

**Approved for implementation on:**

-----