

Meeting Date: 19th July 2022

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Local Government Reorganisation Transition Portfolio Holder's
Report – Councillor Keith Meller**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION TRANSITION

Members will be well aware that Vesting Day is 1st April 2023, which means we are now past the halfway point in preparing for the two new authorities to be formed. The Local Government Reorganisation Programme Board continues to meet weekly and the programme is now moving into the Implementation phase. The themes and workstreams supporting the Programme Board continue to work hard in order to ensure that every area of each Council's services and responsibilities is taken into consideration during the complex transition from seven authorities to two.

The Shadow Authority for Cumberland Council met in May, and at this meeting Members were appointed to various committees. This included the appointment of members to the Executive for the Shadow Authority for Cumberland Council. Its first meeting has taken place and marks the beginning of the process of laying the foundations for the new Council, ahead of it starting to deliver local services from April 2023.

The recruitment process is underway for the two new Chief Executives for Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council. The Local Government Reorganisation Programme Manager has resigned from the role and will leave early this month, a replacement has been recruited.

The importance of keeping staff and members well informed is recognised. Weekly newsletters are circulated and an all-councils staff briefing has been organised for 4th July.

City Council Officers throughout the organisation continue to engage with and support the programme and I am thankful for their efforts. In particular, we should recognise that Officers are working hard on this change whilst continuing to deliver the day-to-day services of the City Council.