

CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Thursday 10 January 2019



The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **Thursday 10 January 2019** :-

1. **NEW SINGLE DISTRICT UNITARY STRUCTURAL ORDER**

(a) **Decision(s)**

- (1) That the content of the draft Buckinghamshire (Structural Changes) Order 2019 be noted.
- (2) That for the reasons indicated below, the Council does not give its consent in accordance with the provisions of section 15 of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016.
- (3) That the Leader would write to the Secretary of State to reflect the views expressed by Cabinet.

(b) **Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

Whilst remaining of the view that unitary local government would be the most efficient and cost effective way to deliver high quality services to stakeholders within the Vale, this should not be at the cost of removal by statute of the traditional processes associated with the selection of council leadership. Such arrangements would be totally contrary to the long accepted principles of maintaining local sovereignty, democracy, transparency and accountability. The objection to giving consent was also based on the predominance (9:8) of County Council Members over District Members on the Executive.

The Council is required by the Secretary of State to respond to his invitation to consent to the structural change legislation.

(c) **Alternative Options Considered**

To consent to the structural change legislation. **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services. In this particular case, the Secretary of State has sought a response by 11 January, 2019. Therefore the urgency provisions contained within the Council's Constitution have been invoked (with the consent of the Chairman of that Committee) and this matter is **not** subject to call-in. **Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)**

None. All Members of the Council have been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to enable them to participate fully in discussions concerning the modernisation of local government in Buckinghamshire.

