

Record of Officer's Decision

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of Decision:	25 th September 2020
Decision Maker (Officer):	Chief Executive
Authority for Delegated Decision (Cabinet/Committee Decision or Scheme of Delegation – provide reference):	<p>Part 3, Schedule 3 – Responsibility for Executive Functions delegated to Officers paragraph 4.3 (1) – the Chief Executive has delegated authority to discharge executive functions within their respective service areas (Part 3.38). All delegations are subject to consultation where considered appropriate in the circumstances (paragraph 4.3 (4)(ii) – Part 3.39).</p> <p>The Chief Executive has delegated operational matters relating to the partnership working with Essex Councils on high level strategic matters.</p>
Identify which Portfolio Holder(s)/Committee Chairman consulted?	The Leader
Ward Member(s) consulted?	N/A
Is it a Key Decision?	NO
Is it subject to call-in?	NO
Decision Made:	To commission Grant Thornton to undertake an assessment of potential options for public sector reform in Greater Essex together with 12 other Essex authorities. Chelmsford City Council will be the lead authority with Grant Thornton for administrative purposes.
Reason for Decision (if a report was produced to support the Decision, refer to or attach it):	Local Government Reorganisation was included in the Government's manifesto and is clearly on their forthcoming agenda with the White Paper for Devolution and Recovery due to be published in 2020/21. Due to the scale of the preparatory work

	Councils of Essex have decided to commence some of that in advance to understand baseline data and options available.																
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	The Cost of commissioning the work will be split between 12 authorities and equate to up to £5,000 per authority plus VAT. The outcome of the report being produced by Grant Thornton will not bind or commit TDC to any future decisions. The report will provide an evaluation of all options and not recommending a preferred option or options.																
Details of any Alternative Options Considered and rejected (together with reasons):	TDC could have decided not to join the Essex authorities in commissioning an independent assessment by Grant Thornton however, this was discounted. It is considered the report could provide an important piece of work evaluating potential options as a baseline position, if the Councils are required to consider the content of the White Paper and any future LGR.																
Details of any declarations of interest (by Portfolio Holder/Committee Chairman who was consulted by the officer, which related to the decision) If relevant, a note of the dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer:	N/A																
Reason Decision, or supporting Report, is not published: <i>Tick one or more of the specific exemptions,</i> <u>and</u> <i>Give more information in the final box with regards to why the exemption applies and outweighs the public interest test (which is in favour of disclosure).</i>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="576 1391 632 1469">x</td> <td data-bbox="632 1391 1372 1469">Not applicable – Decision [and report] to be published</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="576 1469 1372 1547">If Report is not to be published – tick one of the following boxes:</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="576 1547 632 1626"></td> <td data-bbox="632 1547 1372 1626">The report supporting the Decision contains confidential information</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="576 1626 632 1738"></td> <td data-bbox="632 1626 1372 1738">The Report supporting the Decision falls within an exemption pursuant to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Information:</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="576 1738 632 1783"></td> <td data-bbox="632 1738 1372 1783"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relates to an individual </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="576 1783 632 1827"></td> <td data-bbox="632 1783 1372 1827"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to reveal the identity of an individual </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="576 1827 632 1928"></td> <td data-bbox="632 1827 1372 1928"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relating to financial or business affairs of a person or organisation </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="576 1928 632 2029"></td> <td data-bbox="632 1928 1372 2029"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relates to a claim for legal professional privilege in legal proceedings </td> </tr> </table>	x	Not applicable – Decision [and report] to be published	If Report is not to be published – tick one of the following boxes:			The report supporting the Decision contains confidential information		The Report supporting the Decision falls within an exemption pursuant to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Information:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relates to an individual 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to reveal the identity of an individual 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relating to financial or business affairs of a person or organisation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relates to a claim for legal professional privilege in legal proceedings
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reveals that the Council proposes to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or to make an order or direction under any enactment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime
	<p><u>And</u> is exempt if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information</p> <p>Reasons: N/A</p>

Officers

Signed: Ian Davidson (via email) Title: **Chief Executive**

In consultation with:

Signed: Richard Barratt (via email) **Section 151 Officer (if required)**

Signed: Lisa Hastings (via email) **Monitoring Officer (if required)**

Dated: 2nd November 2020