

Motion to Council pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12 submitted by Councillor Paul Honeywood in relation to establishing the financial cost to this Council in responding to the Government's Local Government Reorganisation programme to date plus, inter alia, a call on the Government to reimburse this Council for all costs incurred as a direct result of the Local Government Reorganisation process

"Council notes that:

- in the face of potentially unlawful decision making, and allegations of "gerrymandering" the Government has announced a review of Local Government Reorganisation, with decisions in some areas withdrawn and implementation work elsewhere paused;
- Tendring District Council (TDC), like other Councils across the country have already spent significant amounts of money and officer time preparing for Local Government Reorganisation at the Government's request;
- much of this work has been undertaken because councils were working to deadlines and requirements set by Government.

Council believes that:

- Tendring taxpayers should not be left to pick up the bill for a complex bureaucratic process which the Government has now chosen to pause;
- at a time when this Council's finances are already under enormous pressure, every pound unnecessarily spent on Local Government Reorganisation is a pound which cannot be spent on the services our residents rely on communities across our District;
- it should be democratically elected local councils, in consultation with local residents, to decide on whether to put forward (locally led) proposals for restructuring and that they should not be imposed by Whitehall as a requirement for local government funding or devolution deals.

Council therefore resolves to:

- request that Cabinet receives information from the Leader, in his capacity as the Corporate Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder, within his next financial budget performance report, supported by the Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer, that establishes the total direct and indirect costs to TDC in responding to the Government's Local Government Reorganisation programme to date, as this will enable the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to perform its role in relation to scrutinising the effective use of the Council's resources, on behalf of the Council;
- request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State and our local Members of Parliament to -
 - make it clear that local taxpayers should not be expected to pay for the Government's LGR "U-turn";
 - call on the Government to reimburse this Council for all costs incurred as a direct result of the Local Government Reorganisation process;
 - call on the Government to provide clear answers about the future of Local Government Reorganisation before councils are expected to spend any more taxpayers' money on the process; and
 - make clear this Council's view that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England must be involved in reviewing any local government boundary, ward and council size proposals submitted to the Secretary of State, as part of any LGR related process, by councils in due course."