

# Cherwell District Council

## Executive

4 April 2016

### Devolution – Update: Amended Recommendations

#### Report of Chief Executive

#### 1.0 Recommendations (Amended – amendments in italics)

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 That Executive agree to work with the other District Councils and partners to further develop the initial unitary devolution proposals.
- 1.2 That Executive agree that independent consultants should be jointly appointed by the Districts to undertake detailed work on viability and sustainability and governance; specialist work on collaboration around Children and Adult services; public consultation and involvement; and preparation of a revised Devolution Deal *and that Full Council be recommended to approve the addition of the pursuance of a devolution bid to the adopted policy framework* and a contribution of up to £50k *to* be made to facilitate those studies. This will be funded from General Fund balances.
- 1.3 *That in view of the need to confirm the Council's commitment to the joint appointment of consultants prior to the next scheduled council meeting the Chief Executive be requested to exercise her urgency action powers to implement the recommendations to Full Council in 1.2 above in consultation with the Chairman of Council.*

#### 3.0 Reasons (Amended – amendments in italics)

- 3.1 There is clearly a lot of detail to be worked through over the coming months. The next step will be to jointly commission independent experts with our partners to produce detailed, costed plans for the preferred option and test them against other options to ensure the best and most cost-effective solutions. It is proposed that our Council contribute up to £50,000 to jointly commission this detailed work.
- 3.2 Detailed proposals will be considered by each of the Councils prior to full public consultation in the summer. We would need to be certain of the benefits for the residents of the district.
- 3.3 *The approval of £50,000 to fund the collective pot for the unitary bid needs Full Council approval as there is no specific approved budget that Executive can call upon – General Fund balances being the source. In addition the CDC business plan does not identify anything specific relating to the allocation of resources to devolution in general and the unitary bid in particular so Full Council needs to approve the addition of the pursuance of devolution to the adopted policy framework so that Executive can deal with any future decisions itself.*