



## WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE (WNJC)

### GOVERNANCE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

19 DECEMBER 2019

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Structural Changes Order &amp; Actions Timetable</b>
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#### 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Governance Task and Finish Group of the draft timetable for actions set out in the draft Structural Changes Order which has been laid before Parliament.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 It is recommended that the Governance Task and Finish Group notes the information provided, in particular the steps which the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee (WNJC) is required to take, and the dates by which it must do so, along with the documents which it must have regard to when performing its functions.

#### 3. Issues and Choices

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##### 3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 As Members will be aware, on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 the draft Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2019 was laid before both Houses of Parliament. That draft Order is currently passing through the Parliamentary process and must be approved by both Houses of Parliament before it becomes law.
- 3.1.2 The draft Order sets out various steps to be taken by the existing local authorities in Northamptonshire, including the joint committees appointed for the North and West Areas, the Shadow Authority once elected, and the new authorities following vesting day. Certain of those steps must be carried out by reference to dates or periods of time set out in the draft Order.
- 3.1.3 As a result of the Parliamentary process it is possible that the Draft Order will be amended, in particular it is possible that the time table for some of those steps

## APPENDIX D

may be varied. Appendix A contains a timetable based on the draft Order which sets out the steps which need to be taken by each body, including WNJC, along with any dates by which those steps must be taken. Where the Order requires a step to be taken within a specified period the timetable states the *latest date on which this step could be taken*.

3.1.4 The draft Order also sets out several documents which the bodies concerned, including WNJC, must have regard to when carrying out its functions. Those documents are:

- 3.1.4.1 information supplied to the Secretary of State in support of the proposal for single tier local government in Northamptonshire;
- 3.1.4.2 the Northamptonshire County Council Best Value Report dated March 2018;
- 3.1.4.3 the Report into Children's Services in Northamptonshire by the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government dated May 2019;
- 3.1.4.4 the Direction issued by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government under the Local Government Act 1999 dated 10 May 2018;
- 3.1.4.5 the Directions issued by the Secretary of State for Education under the Education Act 1996 dated 30 November 2018 and 10 June 2019; and,
- 3.1.4.6 Any other Directions which may be given under the 1996 or 1999 Acts.

3.1.5 When the draft Order has been considered and approved by both Houses of Parliament any changes to the timetable will be notified to the WNJC so that it is able to make any necessary changes to its work programme.

### 3.2 Issues and Choices

3.2.1 The Governance Task and Finish Group is asked to note the draft timetable so that it may have regard to it when planning its work.

## 4. Implications (including financial implications)

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### 4.1 Legal

4.1.1 Once the draft Order is approved and becomes law the West Northamptonshire Councils must take the steps set out in it within the stated timetables. If WNJC now plans its work having regard to the draft timetable it should be relatively easy to adapt to any amendments contained in the approved Order.

### 4.2 Policy

4.2.1 None.

### 4.3 Resources and Risk

4.3.1 None.

### 4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 None.

Appendices

A. Draft timetable

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