

## COUNCIL – 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020

### ITEM 8 POSITION STATEMENTS

#### 8.1 Local Government White Paper – Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper

*The Leader, or his nominee, has produced the following position statement:*

*The expected devolution white paper has been expanded to include a response to the pandemic, and when published in late September or early October, will be known as the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper.*

*As outlined at the Council meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the government intends to focus on the creation of additional Combined Authorities, with directly elected mayors, to match those recently created in the West Midlands (population 2.8m), Greater Manchester (2.7m), Liverpool City Region (1.5m) amongst others.*

*The government will also encourage local government areas to reorganise themselves ahead of the creation of new Combined Authorities, to create single tier, unitary structures in those areas that currently have two tiers, and for the creation of parish or town councils where they currently don't exist.*

*In a speech to conservative local government leaders on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020, Simon Clarke MP, Local Government Minister, outlined further details, including the target population for any new unitary council of 300,000 to 500,000.*

*For reference the current population of the seven districts in Leicestershire is about 710,000, growing at 1% per year.*

*In view of this information, and in connection to the previous letter of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to the Secretary of State concerning devolution, the district leaders wrote to Simon Clarke MP on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020, outlining their wish to meet with him, along with the leaders of the county and city councils, to discuss devolution and the future of local government in Leicestershire.*

*[Motion at the end of consideration: To refer the subject of the Position Statement to Cabinet, so that following publication of the Devolution and Local Recovery white paper, a detailed response be prepared and submitted to Cabinet following consideration by Scrutiny Commission, and then brought back to Council. ]*