


Report of: Interim Chief Executive



To: Executive Board

Date: 22 January 2007

Item No:

Invitation to make proposals for future unitary structures.



Summary and Recommendations


Purpose of report: To determine whether the Authority should submit a proposal for unitary Councils in Oxfordshire. 


Key decision: Yes


Portfolio Holder: Councillor John Goddard


Scrutiny Responsibility: Finance



Area(s) affected: All


Report Approved by:


Councillor John Goddard


Finance - Mark Luntley


Legal - Jeremy Thomas


Policy Framework:


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Recommendation(s):

That a decision as to whether to submit a proposal be made in the context of an assessment of its compliance with the criteria expressed by Government.



1. The Government issued an invitation in October 2006 for Councils to make proposals for future unitary structures. The Board, on the 20 November 2006, authorised preparatory work to determine whether any proposal for Oxfordshire would meet the Government's financial criteria.
2. The preparation of the proposal and the assessment of its financial viability is not complete. The proposal and its financial assessment will be completed by the 18 January 2007 and will be circulated to all Members, and be available for public inspection, on that date.
3. Proposals must be submitted to Government on or by 25 January 2007. In order to be acceptable any bid for unitary status will need to:
 - be in accord with a clear set of principles, through which future success can be judged;
 - sit within a clear strategic framework for the sub region;
 - provide strong, effective and accountable local leadership;
 - have clear objectives;
 - have a clear management focus;
 - deliver opportunities for empowerment at neighbourhood level;
 - deliver long-term value for money and cover its set-up costs.

Recommendation:

That a decision as to whether to submit a proposal be made in the context of an assessment of its compliance with the criteria expressed by Government.

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Background papers:

None

