

## **Note for Cabinet Agenda 23 February 2009**

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

Cabinet members will be aware that the Secretary of State has requested that the Boundary Committee delays the submission of its final proposals on LGR in Norfolk until July 15th. Following that request, the Boundary Committee wrote on 12 February to all Chief Executives in the affected counties to outline their timetable for further work. A copy of the letter is provided with the agenda.

The Boundary Committee state that they have taken into account the judgement made by Justice Cranston, in both the Norfolk and East Devon Judicial Reviews. The judge suggested that the Committee had misdirected itself on consultation and that the assessment of affordability was flawed. The Committee has taken legal advice and has decided that it will re-consider what alternative proposals potentially could meet the affordability criterion, and will go out to consultation on those proposals.

The Court of Appeal will hear the joint appeal on the Norfolk and East Devon cases on 18 to 20 February. Although there may be implications arising from the judgement on the Appeal, the Boundary Committee feels that the commencement of the revised review process should not be delayed until that judgement is given.

The Boundary Committee intends therefore, to publish any further draft proposals on 19 March. The period for consultation and for representations to be made will run to 14 May. We will continue to work on this through the LGR working group, and will provide a report to Cabinet on 6 April, after the revised proposals are published.

### **Recommendation**

Cabinet is asked to note the revised timetable for the proposals on local government reorganisation.

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