

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director responsible for Democratic Services

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Date:	30 March 2017
Subject:	Call In of Decision of the Leader of the Council relating to the Membership of the Local Government Association

Summary:

This report provides to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee the details of a Call In which is referred to the Committee by the Proper Officer in accordance with paragraph 15(h) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Constitution.

The Call In relates to a decision made by the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor for Governance, Communications, Commissioning, Finance and Property) on the Membership of the Local Government Association (Decision Reference: I013313) on the Master Plan.

Actions Required:

That the Committee determines whether to uphold the decision of the Leader of the Council in relation to the Membership of the Local Government Association, or to refer the decision back to the Leader of the Council for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns.

1. Background

A report entitled *Membership of the Local Government Association* was submitted to the Leader of the Council on 16 March 2017, a copy of which is attached at Appendix A to this report, where the following decision was made: -

"That approval be given to the serving of 12 months' notice of termination of the County Council's membership of the Local Government Association so that such termination takes effect from 1 April 2018."

A copy of the published Decision Notice following this resolution is attached at Appendix B to this report.

The signatories for the Call In are Councillors P M Dilks, S R Dodds and R C Kirk and the reasons for the Call In are outlined below: -

- (1) The basis of the case is that withdrawal from the LGA will produce an annual saving of £77,957 and is based on a value for money approach. Yet despite seeming to take such an approach:
- (a) there is no attempt to value the services delivered by the LGA and identified at paragraphs 3 and 4
 - (b) there are no financial details of what would be the cost of the services delivered by the LGA if they had to be bought elsewhere, in particular the lobbying of government
 - (c) there is no attempt to provide any evidence of the benefits to the County Council of the services provided by the LGA – take up of councillor and officer training and attendances at conferences and leadership programmes
 - (d) there is no evidence to support the claim that the LGA does not recognise the concerns of County Councils. Further that there are claims that 'in respect of the funding of counties vis-à-vis the cities and districts this imbalance is growing'.
- (2) There is no recognition in the report of the damage to our council within the local government community. Lincolnshire will be seen as a 'freeloader' wanting to get the benefits negotiated by the LGA but not willing to pay the costs of the work involved.
- (3) There is no mention either of the difficulties we may face in future dealings with central government in getting our lone voice heard, as the only non-London council in England and Wales going it alone. We will almost certainly need to retain lobbyists but no costs have been identified.

2. Conclusion

If the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is not minded to uphold the Leader of the Council's decision it may refer the decision back to the Leader of the Council for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns. The Leader of the Council would be asked to reconsider the decision, either amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision. If the Committee does not refer the matter back to the Leader of the Council, the decision may be implemented with immediate effect.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Copy of the report written on behalf of the Chief Executive considered by the Leader of the Council on the Membership of the Local Government Association in relation to Decision Reference I013313.
Appendix B	Copy of the Decision Notice that was published following the decision on the Membership of the Local Government Association in relation to Decision Reference I013313.

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Nigel West, who can be contacted on 01522 552840 or nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk .

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