

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 FEBRUARY 2011**

**Statement from: Cllr Martin Hill – Leader and Executive Councillor for Policy, Strategy, Communications.**

**Council Restructure**

As members are aware on 26 January the council issued consultation documents to around half of all staff with proposals to restructure the organisation. There are 3200 members of staff in scope of this consultation, which proposes that around three quarters of them are likely to remain working for the county council.

The proposals will see 818 people taking voluntary or compulsory redundancies, which is equivalent to about 607 full-time jobs. The largest reductions are proposed in adults and children's services, as this is where the majority of our staff is currently employed. This is in-line with budget proposals where funding for children's safeguarding has been protected, but budget reductions in other areas such as teenage services have been put forward.

Some council support services will be reviewed later in the year, once we have a better idea about the needs of the organisation. (This includes services such as ICT, Customer Services, and administrative services, collectively employing around 1500 members of staff.

Wherever possible we hope that voluntary redundancies will minimise the number of compulsory redundancies that have to be made. However, just because an employee requests voluntary redundancies, this does not mean it will be granted – we want the best people in place to take this council forward in the future.

The consultation will last 30 days plus 60 Days from the 26<sup>th</sup> January after which the new structure should be in place. 'We are doing our best to support the staff thought this very difficult time. Councillor Kelly Smith will give an update at the meeting.

**Local Government LG**

I attended a LG Group meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the Local Government Finance Settlement and the NHS White Paper. There was a discussion on the future of local government self regulation and improvement. Responses to the LG Group consultation from councils had been received and have had very strong overall support for the principles set out in the document, in that councils are responsible for their own performance, but have a collective responsibility for the performance of the sector. The agenda must be broader than just services provided by councils and support better outcomes for communities.

There was agreement that the LG Group should provide the tools to support them which should be voluntary and locally adaptable. It was also made clear that the LG Group should not become a sector owned inspection regime but there is an

acknowledgment that there is an issue regarding councils who are in denial of their own performance when there issues to resolve.

Further work is now being undertaken by the LG Group improvement board to flesh out some of these proposals including carrying forward the REIP legacy and how the group will engage sub nationally with this agenda.

East Midlands councils executive also met recently and are proposing to carry on for at least another year subject to reduce contributions from member authorities being forthcoming, until the new national policy agenda has become clearer and a further review will be undertaken later in the year.