

Dear All,

For the past year, the County Council has been deliberating local government reform for Leicestershire. The Scrutiny Commission and the cross party Working Group set up to advise the Cabinet, have been working hard exploring all the options.

I said I wanted to “start a conversation” about potential reform, creating a modern, fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century vision for local government in Leicestershire.

Attached is the detailed business case for that vision- after comparing different options, a single unitary council is proposed to replace all eight councils in the County, saving £30 million per year, improve services, reduce confusion and duplication resulting in a better deal and outcomes for local residents.

An independent review of the business case, conducted by Price Waterhouse Coopers says the strategic business case represents a sound basis for presenting potential savings and planning next steps.

With this in mind and despite uncertainty at the national level, the new Government and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, have signalled a willingness to empower local government through greater devolution of powers. I want Leicestershire to be at the forefront of that and to be in a position to act quickly.

The document will be discussed by Cabinet on 22 October and if approved, will be further considered by the Scrutiny Commission on 30 October, the Cabinet on 22 November and Full Council on 4 December.

With best regards,

**Nicholas Rushton**  
**Leader of Leicestershire County Council**