

Eden District Council
Finance Scrutiny Committee
25 October 2022

Local Government Reorganisation - Finance Theme Update

Report from:	Interim Director of Resources
Wards:	All Wards
Open Public Item	

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the current position and proposals for the finance theme of Local Government Reorganisation.

2 Recommendation

It is recommended that Committee note the report.

3 Background

- 3.1 Local Government Reorganisation for Cumbria means that there is no formal budget process for the Council to undertake in the lead up to vesting day.
- 3.2 The responsibility for setting both the financial strategy and the budgets for 2023/24 rests with the two shadow authorities Westmorland and Furness for the Eden district area.
- 3.3 Whilst the formal scrutiny roles will also be undertaken by the shadow authorities there will be a need for the sovereign authorities to input towards the financial strategy and the setting of the budgets for the new authorities from 2023/24.

4 Report Details

- 4.1 Since the last meeting, the Shadow Authority has appointed Paul Sutton as its Interim Section 151 Officer until 31 December 2022 and Pam Duke as permanent Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer from 1 January 2023.
- 4.2 The Shadow Cabinet has also approved a Council Tax Reduction Scheme for consultation and under section 24 have approved the County Council to award a contract for the provision of electricity supply.
- 4.3 In November the Shadow Cabinet will receive a report setting out the draft budget process and medium term financial strategy, which will be considered at the next meeting of this Committee.

5 Policy Framework

- 5.1 The Council has four corporate priorities which are:
- Sustainable;

- Healthy, safe and secure;
- Connected; and
- Creative

5.2 This report meets the sustainable and healthy, safe and secure corporate priorities.

6 Consultation

6.1 None.

7 Implications

7.1 Financial and Resources

7.1.1 Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the Council's stated priorities, as set out in its Council Plan 2019-2023 as agreed at Council on 7 November 2019.

7.1.2 There are no financial or resources implications arising from this report.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.3 Human Resources

7.3.1 There are no Human Resource implications arising from this report.

7.4 Environmental

7.4.1 There are no environmental implications including significant effects on carbon emissions and ecosystems.

7.5 Statutory Considerations

Consideration:	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	None arising from this report.
Health, Social Environmental and Economic Impact	None arising from this report.
Crime and Disorder	None arising from this report.
Children and Safeguarding	None arising from this report.

7.6 Risk Management

Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
Members of the Committee do not know what reports will be presented.	Could affect the effectiveness of the Committee	Maintained work programme to each Committee.

8 Other Options Considered

8.1 No other options were considered.

9 Reasons for the Decision/Recommendation

9.1 To update the Committee on the current work of the LGR finance theme.

Tracking Information

Governance Check	Date Considered
Chief Finance Officer (or Deputy)	13/10/22
Monitoring Officer (or Deputy)	N/A
Relevant Assistant Director	N/A

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

Contact Officer: Paul Sutton, Interim Director of Resources