

## **Motion on Holding an Extraordinary Meeting to Debate the Local Government Review (LGR) Options**

**Proposed by:** Councillor Bob Deering

**Seconded by:** Councillor Ian Devonshire

### **Council notes that:**

- 1) The current Local Government Review (LGR) process for Hertfordshire represents one of the most significant constitutional developments in the history of local government within our county.
- 2) The outcomes of this review have the potential to reshape the structure, governance, and democratic accountability of local authorities across Hertfordshire, including East Herts District Council.
- 3) The Council's position within this process will have lasting implications for our residents, staff, services, and local identity.
- 4) The decision on East Herts District Council's preferred option within the LGR process is currently due to be made by the Executive without prior consultation or open debate by all Members.
- 5) As a council that prides itself on being transparent, democratic, and listening to the voices of its Members and residents, it is vital that such a fundamental matter is discussed and determined in a public and inclusive forum where all District Councillors are able to contribute and vote.

### **Council therefore believes that:**

- a) The determination of the Council's preferred position within the Local Government Review should not rest solely with the Executive.
- b) All elected Members, as the democratically chosen representatives of their communities, should have the opportunity to consider, debate and vote on this issue.
- c) Open discussion will strengthen the legitimacy and credibility of the Council's eventual position and ensure that it reflects the collective view of the authority.

### **Council resolves to:**

- 1) Convene an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council at the earliest practicable opportunity to consider and debate the options presented within the Local Government Review for Hertfordshire.
- 2) Ensure that a comprehensive briefing paper outlining each option, along with its potential implications for East Herts, is circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting.
- 3) Allow a free vote of all Members at that meeting to determine East Herts District Council's formal position and recommendation to be submitted as part of the LGR process.
- 4) Request that the Executive refrains from making any final decision on the Council's position within the LGR process until this extraordinary meeting has taken place and the will of the full Council has been expressed.