

## OFFICER DECISION RECORD

<b>Lead Officer:</b> Carol Pilson, Corporate Director & Monitoring Officer	<b>Service:</b> CMT
<b>CMT Officer:</b> As above	<b>Delegated Power Being Exercised:</b> Part 3 - Responsibilities for Functions; Table 4, paragraphs:  47B To consider and grant requests for Dispensations from section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 in accordance with paragraph 1.3.2 of Article 9
<b>Subject of Decision:</b> Dispensation for Members to participate in discussion and voting on Local Government Reorganisation	

<b>Decision Taken:</b> To grant all Members a dispensation to enable full debate and voting on Local Government Reorganisation agenda items at both Cabinet and Council on 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2025.
<b>Reason for the Decision:</b> Local Government Reorganisation represents a significant potential change to the structure of local government in two tier areas which the possible abolition of Fenland District Council in March 2028.  Fenland District Council Members are also Members of other local authorities and groups such as Cambridgeshire County Council and Town and Parish Councils whereby LGR may have been discussed and voted on.  This debate affects the future of the structure of local government and the representation and delivery of services to communities, therefore it is felt that all Members should feel able to express their views in public to the fullest extent to support the community and Council debate on this matter.  This particularly affects Cabinet Members whereby they will participate in Council prior to taking the decision in regards which option to submit to government on behalf of FDC at the Cabinet meeting thereafter. To allow Cabinet Members to fully debate and express their views within the Council meeting, it is important to grant them a dispensation to enable them to speak freely without the restriction of the perception of them being biased or predetermined.
<b>Alternative Options Considered</b> (if appropriate): To not grant the dispensation which may prevent the full ability of Members to engage in the debate which is not acceptable given the importance of the subject matter.
<b>Background/Reports/Information</b> considered and attached: White Paper on English Devolution published on 16 December 2024 <a href="#">English Devolution White Paper: Power and partnership: Foundations for growth - GOV.UK</a>

Council Report: LGR – draft proposals; 14 March 2025

[Draft Council report - Local Government Reorganisation - Draft Proposals NA 1.pdf](#)

Cabinet Report: LGR – draft proposals; 14 March 2025

[Draft Cabinet report - Local Government Reorganisation - Draft Proposals 1.pdf](#)

Council Minutes; 14 March 2025

[Agenda for Council on Friday, 14th March, 2025, 5.30 pm - Fenland District Council](#)

Cabinet Minutes; 14 March 2025

[Agenda for Cabinet on Friday, 14th March, 2025, 6.15 pm - Fenland District Council](#)

Council Report: LGR – draft proposals; 21 July 2025

[Draft Council report - Local Government Reorganisation - July 2025.pdf](#)

Cabinet Report: LGR – draft proposals; 21 July 2025

[Draft Cabinet report - Local Government Reorganisation - July 2025 1.pdf](#)

Council Minutes; 21 July 2025

[Agenda for Council on Monday, 21st July, 2025, 4.00 pm - Fenland District Council](#)

Cabinet Minutes; 21 July 2025

[Agenda for Cabinet on Monday, 21st July, 2025, 5.00 pm - Fenland District Council](#)

[Joint engagement with other local councils - Fenland District Council](#)

Overview and Scrutiny; 3 November 2025

[Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Panel on Monday, 3rd November, 2025, 2.30 pm - Fenland District Council](#)

Cabinet; 7 November 2025

<https://moderngov.fenland.gov.uk/documents/s17883/Draft%20Cabinet%20report%20-%20Local%20Government%20Reorganisation%20-%20Nov%202025.pdf>

Council; 7 November 2025

<https://moderngov.fenland.gov.uk/documents/g3139/Public%20reports%20pack%2007th-Nov-2025%2016.00%20Council.pdf?T=10>

Officer's Signature;

Carol Pilson, Monitoring Officer  
In consultation with Councillor Peter Murphy,  
Chairman of Conduct Committee and Stuart  
Webster, Independent Person

Date:

7 November 2025

**Please forward to Democratic Services upon completion**

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**Date copy passed to  
Democratic Services**

**07/11/25**

**Implementation Date: 07/11/25  
(if not called-in)  
(Allow 5 clear working days after publication  
of decision)**

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