

To Cllr Gareth Eales Mayor of Northampton

Dear Mr Mayor,

As per the Local Government Act (1972) Section 12, we the undersigned hereby request that you call an extraordinary meeting of the Council. As you will know, should you refuse or fail to call a meeting within 7 days of receiving this letter, we are empowered to call a meeting without your consent.

We put forward the following motion for examination at the extraordinary meeting.

In January 2017 the council passed the following

“Northampton Borough Council remains committed to replacing the current two tier arrangements operating in Northamptonshire with Unitary Councils.

This Council, however, rejects Northamptonshire County Council’s plan for a single county-wide local authority, believing that it is essential that local government remains local. Making local government more remote would decrease accountability and public engagement.

Additionally, it was noted that the Northamptonshire County Council’s draft budget states a plan to achieve unitary status for 2019/2020 to save £10 million per annum. This Council would like to make it clear that it is opposed to a County Council unitary authority.

We strongly believe that the best solution for the town is a Northampton unitary authority with a limited expansion of the borough boundary to incorporate the Northampton Growth Area as defined in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.

This Council will also ask our MPs to support us in this ambition.”

Since the passing of that motion January 2017 the Borough has co-commissioned with the Boroughs and Districts an independent report, the Deloitte report, looking at options for Unitary. We support the adoption of a Unitary Northampton, and maintain that the Deloitte’s report shows this to be a viable and sustainable option. We have also written to the Secretary of State giving him our cross party view in favour of a unitary authority for Northampton. We therefore commit to the following urgent actions to be enacted prior to the 4th June:-

1. That the Council raises awareness of unitary proposals and the benefits of a Unitary Northampton
2. That the Council seeks the support of residents, institutions, businesses and the voluntary sector within the town for a unitary authority for Northampton on a wider boundary.
3. That the Rt Hon. James Brokenshire MP, the new Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, be invited to the council so he can personally

be made aware of the cross-party support, the case for a Unitary Northampton and can be shown round our town.

4. That the towns MP's be invited to a similar cross party meeting with the council.
5. There is an online consultation to enable residents of the town to express their views on unitary proposals and a series of public meetings for the same purpose, supported cross party.

The reasons behind this motion are that the next full council is not until June 4th, we wish to further discuss the Unitary proposals and to wait until this date would prove too late given the July deadline.

We also would like members of the public to come and air their opinions so the council can move forward our campaign on an informed basis.

Sincerely

Janelle Stone 

 

