

## **Unitary Status Update**

General information that is already known

1. Legislation required to implement the government's decision – in place by end December 2007.
2. It seems likely that vesting day for Wiltshire will be 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.
3. Elections to the new Wiltshire Council in May 2009.
4. Transitional Cabinet with County (5) and District (4) Councillors in place early in the New Year 2008.
5. WCC Transition Team is forming as we speak. Four workstreams covering about 34 likely project areas looking at different aspects of how the new Authority will come together.
6. Current legal action taking place by Shrewsbury and Atcham BC but no result yet known. The informed opinion is even if successful, it will result in a delay to the unitary agenda, not an abandonment. Other Districts in Wiltshire taking Court action.

North Wiltshire District Council's involvement

1. There are of course a regular Chief Executives and Council Leaders meeting across Wiltshire.
2. Our principal involvement at officer level (apart for the Chief Executive's regular meeting) is in our representation on the Joint Implementation Board. Either Sue Pangbourne and Laurie Bell, our Deputy Chief Executives, attend this group.
3. There is also senior staff NWDC representation at each of the four main workstreams. I can provide details if you require (Lachlan Robertson on Front Services, Jo Cogswell on Community Leadership and Governance, Peter Barnett on Business Management Programme, Stuart McGregor on Resources).
4. Various informal and formal service groups across the District and the County are meeting informally to consider the implications and in some case put forward suggestions. As the remaining One Council For Wiltshire transition team is completed, these will become or be replaced by the formal project areas.
5. Some staff from NWDC will be joining the 1CFW team should they apply and be successful.
6. In order to keep on top of the complexity of this process, NWDC have set up our own transition project office led by myself and staffed as required. It is early days yet but out priority is to manage the information flow and support our services and out staff through this significant period of change.

Any Questions?