

Minutes of the **Pre-Meeting** of Aston Clinton Parish Council re. Proposed
Unitary Authority Status
held on 1st February 2017 at 7.00pm
at Aston Clinton Parish Meeting Room

Present:

Councillors: -

L Tubb – Chairman

T Comerford

M Osborn

L Ronson

M Mason

R Stewart

J Eggesfield

C Read

P Wyatt

P Hughes

Clerks: G Merry (recording), E Barry

0 Members of the public

Introduction

Both Bucks CC and AVDC had presented models for changing over to unitary authority status in the coming 2 years. Local MP David Lidington's office had contacted the clerk for the PC's view on the matter. Cllr Tubb had analysed the 2 models and circulated a summary document prior to the meeting, which all had read. She emphasised that no formal decision would be taken at this stage. Both models were more about plugging the funding gap than anything else.

Model 1 – Bucks County Council

- 1 authority but not known where based
- Streamlined into 98 Cllrs instead of 238.
- Community 'Boards' to be established but no detail given
- Savings said to be i.e. £18.2 million per year
- No detail on the effect on PCs but covertly saying there will be more services devolved to the PCs

Model 2 – District Authorities (currently AVDC, Chiltern, South Bucks, and Wycombe)

- 2 unitary authorities plus Milton Keynes to be established (north and south Bucks), replacing the current 5
- The 2 authorities will be delineated by the Chilterns with the south aligning towards London and the north likely to be identified for growth.
- Aylesbury and MK to work together – no detail on how.
- Have promised a charter on how they will work with local communities
- Area panels to be established – vague on detail
- A.C. to go in 'Bucks District Council' – likely to align with the north of the county.
- No detail on the effect on PCs but covertly saying there will be more services devolved to the PCs

Discussion:

- There was no detail re. housing supply
- There would be centralisation of budgets
- Cllr Hughes pointed out that the current BCC cabinet members all live in South Bucks and recent policy has been south-centric. His view was that the one authority planned would replace the current one authority and little would change/improve.
- GM stated more detail is needed to have support from a PC. LT felt this would not be forthcoming. The Secretary of State will make a ruling and only then will get the details.

Timeframe and conclusions

- Changes likely to be implemented by 2019, if passed by DCLG.
- Cllrs were asked to consider their position in due course
- Cllr Tubb's summary presentation document is available on request.

DRAFT