

Report to Council

Subject: Independent Local Government

Date: 11 July 2012

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1. Purpose of the Report

To introduce an initiative being undertaken by Parliament to review the relationship between Central and Local Government and to seek the views of this Council on the subject.

2. Background

Parliament is currently exploring the relationship between central and local government. A consultation is underway to explore whether defining and 'codifying' the relationship could allow localities the freedom to be independent and to better respond to the needs of local communities. Nottingham North MP Graham Allen chairs the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee that is leading this work and has been hosting meetings to bring together a range of local stakeholders to participate in the debate and feed into the consultation. A discussion event, attended by District and County Leaders, was held in Nottingham during April and the County Council is holding a further event in September.

3. Proposal

As part of the Select Committee's work an academic from De Montfort University has been engaged to draw up an "illustrative code governing the relationship between central government and local authorities in England." The code, as well as further information, is appended to this report.

Council is being asked for its views on the draft code so that Gedling Borough Council can respond to the consultation. The Select Committee is particularly keen to hear views on the code; whether or not it is needed; what is good; what specifically should be changed and; how it should be changed.

4. Resource Implications

There are no resources implications arising from this report.

5. Recommendation

That Council grants delegated authority for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leaders of each Political Group, to submit a written response to the Select Committee on behalf of Gedling Borough Council.