

PUBLIC QUESTION TO COUNCIL – 7 December 2023

Question from David Ingham to Councillor B Lewis, Leader of the Council

“I’ve asked questions associated with the proposed EMCCA at Full Council on 02-11-22 and at the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources on 11-05-23 when there had been a Call In request relating to the allocation and approval of £0.480m from the Feasibility Reserve Fund to support development stages of the EMCCA.

I note at 2.54 within the report implications for Nottingham City Council, presumably as they can’t deliver a 2023/24 balanced budget and have issued a Section 114. I also note at 2.65 programme team potential implications.

I already understand from my attendance at Scrutiny Committee on 11-05-23 that £2m development stage costs were already been shared between the constituent councils – 0.480m falling on Derbyshire.

Given Derbyshire’s 2023/24 financial projected overspend position, what are the implications of Nottingham City’s tragic financial position on Derbyshire now regarding EMCCA proposal resources/finance commitments especially given Derbyshire is the Accountable Body?”

Response:

“We don’t anticipate that Nottingham City Council’s issue of a Section 114 notice will have any impact on DCC in our role as an accountable body for the programme to establish an East Midlands Combined County Authority. The shared costs for which we are accountable are funded from central government capacity funding and do not require additional contributions from each of the constituent authorities.”

Supplementary question:

“Just for total clarity on my part, better understanding for me and to be transparent, I am totally neutral on EMCCA proposal and totally non-partisan. Just for the record my interest is purely about resource and financial implications for DCC and it's protection.

Am I right that decisions being taken in relation to the EMCCA are optional? I was involved in the local government review in 97, both public facing and back office, it was resource intensive for everybody, that’s my closest comparator really. I can only imagine the work behind the scenes in addition to that known through the call in at scrutiny in May.

Just to be categorically clear, given today's report to full Council can't be subject to a call in, will all past and future costs associated with work undertaken by

DCC to set up the EMCCA be fully funded and recoverable, as I don't believe it is totally explicit within the report and is especially important given DCC has taken on additional accountable body responsibilities?"

Response:

"I would expect that costs of an accountable body would be met within the fund, as described."