

**Question from Member of the Public pursuant to Standing Order No 7**

**Question from Elinor Parsons:**

This month Warwickshire County Council will decide whether to become full members of the West Midlands Combined Authority. This decision will apparently be made without consulting the district councils - despite its likely impact. It should have been openly debated across the districts and this council should have been given the opportunity to collect and submit comments from councillors. Will this council write to WCC to share its frustration with the lack of consultation and to request an urgent delay to the decision-making process in order to allow time for an open debate on the implications of joining the Combined Authority?

**Response from David Wright – Leader of the Council:**

My understanding is that Warwickshire County Council will consider this matter at its Cabinet meeting on 15th July and then at a meeting of the full Council at a later date. I was not advised of this development until last week and it's fair to say that not all the relevant information is available yet to partners such as this Council nor is it clear whether all the detail has yet been confirmed.

I share the questioner's disappointment that this important matter is being considered at such short notice and without any of the consultation that you would normally expect to see. I am currently not confident that Warwickshire County Council has all the information it needs to make a decision, including the views of the other constituent and non-constituent Councils that make up the Combined Authority. I am happy therefore to write to the County Council setting out this view and asking that a decision is not made until all the information has been provided and consulted upon.