

Summary

Further draft proposals for unitary local government in Devon

The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of the Electoral Commission, an independent body set up by the UK Parliament. One of our duties is to advise the Government on local authority bids for unitary status.

On 6 February 2008 the Boundary Committee for England was requested to advise the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the structure of local government in Devon.

We were asked to provide advice on whether there was any pattern of unitary local government – one or more councils providing all services currently provided by the county and district councils – that might work for the county area as a whole. Any pattern of authorities that we propose to the Secretary of State should have the capacity to meet five criteria which she has laid out: being affordable; attracting a broad cross-section of support; delivering neighbourhood empowerment; providing strong strategic leadership; and delivering value-for-money public services.

Since the start of our review we have spoken at length with and listened to the views of local authorities, businesses, community and voluntary

groups, and service delivery partners such as the police and primary care trust. We have also listened to the views of the thousands of residents who responded to our earlier consultation.

We have now published our report *Further draft proposals for unitary local government in Devon*. The report contains two patterns of unitary local government which we consider are likely to have the capacity to meet the Secretary of State's five criteria. The report is available on our website.

Our further draft proposals for Devon are:

- a Devon unitary authority comprising the existing county of Devon, with no changes to Plymouth and Torbay
- an Exeter & Exmouth unitary authority, and a unitary authority covering the remainder of the county, with no changes to Plymouth and Torbay

Further draft proposals for unitary local government in Devon: [summary](#)

These further draft proposals are the same as the two patterns that we published in July 2008. Maps illustrating our further draft proposals are set out in Appendix C of the report.

What happens next?

When we provide any advice, we want to make sure that it is right for the residents of Devon, so we need your views on our further draft proposals. In light of what you tell us, our proposals might alter before we put them to the Secretary of State. Any advice we do provide will be informed by the responses provided by people and organisations across the county.

We welcome views on our further draft proposals. All representations should reach us by **14 May 2009**. You might want to tell us, among other things, which proposal you prefer, how one or both could be made better, or how you feel the neighbourhood empowerment arrangements could work for your village or town. Whatever representations you want to make, we want to know not only what you think, but why you think it.

After 14 May 2009 we will consider all the representations we have received throughout the review. Any advice we give to the Secretary of State must be provided by her deadline of 15 July 2009.

If you have written to us before, we will take into account what you have already said. However, if you wish to provide any additional information please write to us. We also welcome the views and evidence of those we have not yet heard from.

The Committee places great importance on ensuring openness and transparency in the way we deal with all representations. All representations received will be made available for public inspection at our offices in London.

Representations will also be available on our website, at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

If you write to us, and do not want all or any part of your response or name made public, please state this clearly in the response and we will endeavour to respect your wish. Any such request should explain why confidentiality is necessary, but all information in responses may be subject to publication or disclosure as required by law (in particular under the Freedom of Information Act 2000).

You can express your views by using our online form at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk, or by writing directly to:

**Review Manager
(Devon Review)
The Boundary Committee
for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London SW1P 2HW**

**Tel: 020 7271 0512
Fax: 020 7271 0505
Email: reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk**

Once we have provided any advice, further representations may be made directly to the Secretary of State for a four-week period. She may then accept, reject or modify any proposal that we make. She may also ask us for more information. It will be for the Secretary of State to decide if and when any new unitary authorities are to be created.

Further information

The full report is available to download at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

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