

Have your say

The Boundary Committee wants to know what you think of its proposals. Your Councils strongly support local people, businesses and organisations getting involved in the consultation.

This is your last chance to express your view to the Boundary Committee before it makes its recommendation to the Secretary of State, Hazel Blears.

The closing date for all submissions on the unitary proposal is **Thursday May 14 2009**.

The Boundary Committee will report to Hazel Blears with its final proposals by mid July. The Government will make its decision in the summer.

To view the Boundary Committee's proposal for Devon, click on to www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews

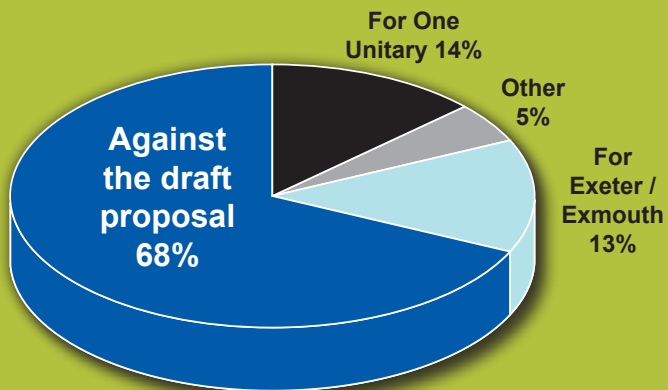
To have your say on the proposals:

- Write to The Review Manager (Devon), The Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2HW.
- or
- Register your views online at <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/open-consultations/online-submissions>

Find out more at www.westdevon.gov.uk or www.southhams.gov.uk

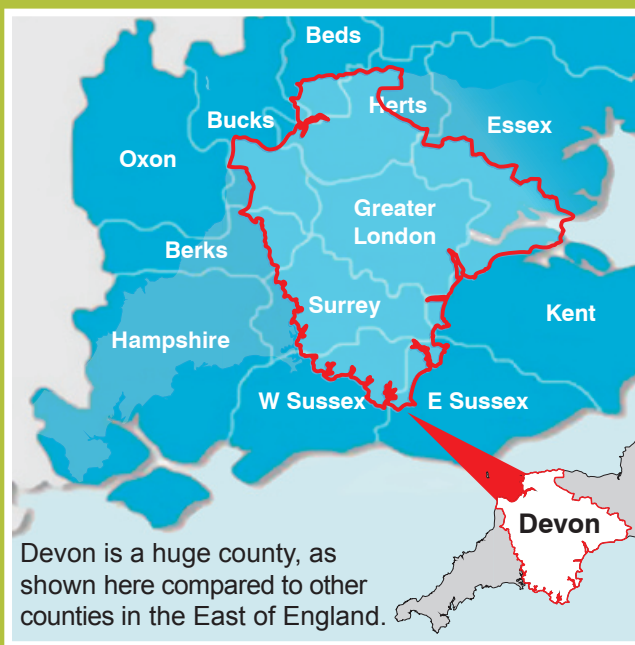
To get this information in another format or language call 01803 861234

Your opinion IS important and will count



During last year's consultation, 68% of people who responded to the Boundary Committee rejected them. The Boundary Committee are consulting again because of legal challenges to their process and new guidance that has been issued by the Government.

If you said "No" last year, and you still don't think the latest proposals are best for Devon - say "No" again.



Local Government Reorganisation Keep the 'local' in local government



The clock is ticking!

Have your say before it's too late!

The Boundary Committee still wants to abolish all eight district councils and the county council in Devon – including your council.

They want your views by **Thursday 14 May 2009**. They are proposing two options:-

- a single giant unitary council covering all of Devon serving 742,000 people, OR
- a Greater Exeter & Exmouth unitary of 170,000 people surrounded by a further rural Devon unitary for 540,000 people.

Plymouth and Torbay boundaries would remain the same.

There is a third option - see overleaf.

What do YOU think about this?

Do you WANT this change to happen?

You CAN make a difference!



South Hams
District Council



West Devon
Borough
Council

We believe there is a real third option

There is a third and better option which West Devon Borough Council, South Hams District Council – and other district councils in Devon – believe is the best way forward for our residents.



This is to retain the eight district councils and the county council through a system called 'Integrated Devon'. All the councils would continue to work closely together to ensure that residents get a better service.

Real savings would be – and already have been - made without spending millions of pounds on bringing in risky, unwanted and unnecessary unitary councils.

But most importantly, you will have a local councillor for YOUR community.

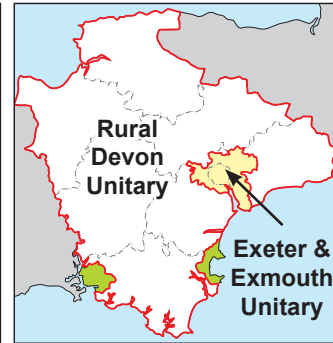
No change to the current local government structure in Devon is **STILL an option.**

If this is what **YOU want, you **MUST** tell the Boundary Committee that you don't agree with their options. You must also tell them why.**

— Unitary Authority (UA) Boundary
— Plymouth and Torbay UA Boundaries
- - - Current District Boundaries



Devon Unitary Authority Proposal



Exeter & Exmouth Unitary Authority Proposal and a Rural Devon Unitary Authority Proposal

The Boundary Committee's two alternative proposals are shown above. Your council strongly disagrees with these proposals.

We say:

- Delivery of high quality services and our good overall performance are in serious jeopardy, all for the sake of hypothetical savings that may never come about.
- We provide more than 100 locally-based services to your community. Are you sure all new council services will be easily accessible to you?
- We are known locally and nationally as high performing authorities. Can that quality be guaranteed by a large new authority in the future?
- We provide good value for money – we are two of the best councils in the country. Will this be at risk?
- You will lose your local councillor under a unitary council.
- Any local government structure must put the interests of our rural communities at its very heart.

If you agree, make sure your voice is heard

Key issues

Key issues that your council believes are most important for you to consider and you can use in your response to the Boundary Committee are:

- This is a reorganisation that the vast majority of people haven't asked for and don't want.
- When the Boundary Committee consulted on its proposals last year, 195 Devon parishes objected, with 38 in support.
- Working together as a team - not imposed revolutionary change - is better and less risky for Devon.
- The real costs of the change have not been fully identified.
- All Devon's councils have fewer resources now – due to the economic situation – than when the cost assessments were initially put together.
- Our shared services projects are already producing results – saving time, money and giving you better services.
- Both giant unitary options for our areas will be remote from you and your communities. Democracy will be permanently damaged.
- You will have the worst level of electoral representation in England. How will you be able to influence major decisions for your community?
- Changing Cornwall to a unitary authority has cost more than £60 million – more than three times as much as originally planned.

These latest proposals are still ill conceived, inadequately justified and will not deliver any tangible benefits to the people of Devon.



South Hams District Council



West Devon Borough Council