

| | Name | Your feedback |
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| 1 | B P Richardson | This proposed change is unnecessary - its only the power hungary members in Exeter who want change. The current structure has worked well since 1974, Torbay Unitary was a mistake (too small) - dont do it leave well alone. It would be a waste of taxpayers money. Most residents will not want to be taken over by a larger authority based in Exeter (whether a Unitary council based on Devon of Exeter Sub-region). |
| 2 | M Fairclough | I firmly believe that the town of Exmouth has been milked like a cash cow by successive conservative administrations in EDDC. If a change MUST be made, for the benefit of the whole of Devon, then the option I would choose is for EDDC to be dissolved, and there be one Devon, with Plymouth and Torbay remaining as they are.Exeter absorbing Exmouth does not appeal. I'm happy with the documents so far presented by Devon County Council |
| 3 | VICTOR KEMP | <p>I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE PROPOSAL OF EAST DEVON BEING IN A UNITARY AUTHORITY.</p> <p>I BELONG TO THE EAST DEVON TENANT & LEASEHOLDER CUSTOMER PANEL AS A TENANT REPRESENTATIVE I AM ALSO ON THE HOUSING REVIEW BOARD AS A TENANT REPRESENTATIVE.</p> <p>BEING A RURAL REGION HAVING 4300 COUNCIL PROPERTIES DISPERSED ACROSS EAST DEVON I SEE AT FIRST HAND THE NEED FOR LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY,ALSO OUR COUNCIL IS ONE OF THE FEW DEBT FREE, BEING PRUDENT IN ITS EXPENDITURE,WE HAVE MADE SAVINGS THAT WILL BE RE INVESTED IN THE COMMUNITY AND HOPEFULLY THE NEW TOWN OF CRANBROOK WILL GIVE 40% AFFORDABLE HOUSING,I WAS ALSO INVOLVED VERY MUCH IN THE STOCK OPTIONS DECISION MAKING PROCESS AS A TENANT AS WELL AS THE CHOICE BASED LETTINGS SCHEME,TENANTS COMPACT AND AGREEMENT IN LINE WITH THE KLOES.</p> <p>EAST DEVON IS A FORWARD THINKING COUNCIL AND DOES NOT SIT ON ITS HANDS,ONE TIME NO ONE WOULD THINK IT WOULD LISTEN TO TENANTS EVEN WITH LEGISLATION THAT THEY HAD TO.I AM VERY PROUD TO BE INVOLVED WITH EAST DEVON COUNCIL AND TO GO UNITARY WOULD BE A GREAT WASTE OF MONEY AND SKILLS, LET THEM LEARN FROM US ON THEIR OWN SO THERE ARE MORE SKILLS OUT THERE TO TRANSFORM OTHERS LETS MENTOR OTHERS AS WE ARE, AND HOPEFULLY WITH CARRICK IN CORNWALL TO BETTER OURSELVES FURTHER.WE ALREADY HAVE PARTNERSHIPS AND PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND IN THE PROCESS OF FUTHERING THOSE AIMS WE DONT NEED A UNITARY AUTHORITY THAT WILL SPOIL IT AND DILUTE ALL SERVICES AND AMENITIES.</p> <p>WE ARE MOVING FORWARD ALL THE TIME WE DONT WANT TO BE SLOWED DOWN. I AM IN FAVOUR WITH THIS GOVERNMENT BUT THIS IS ONE MATTER I AM NOT...WHAT ABOUT PRUDENCE SHE LIVES HERE IN EAST DEVON!!!!</p> |

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| 4 | Philip J Loft | Northern Devon is still comparatively remote and is populated by a largely elderly population. Exeter is far too far away for "Local" government to be effective. Residents of the area already have to go to Exeter for certain medical treatments which causes extreme difficulty and expense as there is very little public transport available apart from the Tarka line from Barnstaple. A letter in the local paper highlighted the problem where a lady had to hire a private ambulance to take her husband to Hospital. If local government was to be centred on Exeter it would severely restrict the number of people offering themselves for election as councillors because of the aforementioned difficulties. |
| 5 | Mrs Suzanne Fox-Williams | Since reading the proposals for a Devon wide unitary authority I was most disturbed. The proposed geographic area that the new authority will cover is huge, with most areas being rural. I have grave concerns that services will suffer as money will be driven towards the larger towns and cities, local democracy particularly in North Devon will no longer exist as the percentage of representation from Councillors in North Devon will diminish. North Devon includes many rural areas which I feel will no longer benefit from locally based services and our communities will suffer with no support from a local Council. This Government has gone mad - what about letting local people have a say for once! How can a larger local authority be more cost effective without cutting services? It seems that we would have the 2nd largest unitary in the Country with Birmingham being the largest, how can the Boundary Committee compare us to Birmingham when this area is a large city with major towns? Devon is made up of many rural areas which are spread over a large geographic area therefore we are not of a similar make up. Surely it would be more efficient and would serve the local communities better if we were split into a northern and southern unitary? Ilfracombe in particular is a thriving seaside town which currently needs a lot of regeneration to encourage more tourism, however this proposed unitary will see Ilfracombe lost in such a large area with other areas with more democratic representation taking priority. |
| 6 | John Winterbottom | I have been an Exeter City Councillor since 2000. It is a Council which has been recognised for many years as an excellent rated Authority. As a District Council it levies one of the lowest rates of Council Tax in the Country, but which at the same time provides excellent services to its Citizens. Devon on the other hand does not fall into the same category and has been criticised by the residents of Exeter for high increases in Council Tax. Most of the problems that I experience as a Councillor are those related to Devon County Council. The proposal to include Exeter as part of a Unitary Devon would certainly be less democratic, less efficient and almost certainly more costly for the Citizens of Exeter. The proposal put forward by Exeter City Council for a Greater Exeter Unitary Authority would I believe meet all the criteria laid down by the Government. |
| 7 | D Speirs | Mid Devon is a failed council and will not be missed. Cullompton has direct public links to Exeter, but not to Tiverton in the evenings (after 6.15 p.m.). Cullompton would be better off linked to Exeter or any unitary prepared to offer real democracy. |

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| 8 | Mrs K Northway | <p>The proposal for a single authority for the whole of Devon excluding Torbay and Plymouth will not I feel be in the interest of residents in South Devon. Residents of Newton Abbot which will be the largest town in the south of the remaining area will be vastly outnumbered by those in towns in north and central Devon. Similarly, Torbay being an existing unitary authority with a relatively small population is struggling to receive recognition. A proposal to integrate Torbay Council into a new South Devon regional authority would be more sensible and give fairer coverage to all residents in South Devon. The existing Teignbridge and South Hams District Council's former resistance to this option may not have helped but given the recommended alternatives I feel that this option should be revisited.</p> <p>Torbay has a relatively densely populated area in three towns but is not connected to the strategic road network at all, therefore it will always struggle to receive appropriate levels of funding if it is in competition with an overlarge organisation that surrounds it on all sides.</p> |
| 9 | Sue Robinson | <p>I strongly oppose the proposed changes. As a single unitary council it would be too big, too unwieldy to manage well. The new (proposed) Council would be heavily burdened by the debts brought to it Devon as a whole. East Devon has no debt problem, and is well managed in its present form. PLEASE do not create a council as big as Birmingham or Leeds, or saddle our successful council area with huge debts from another council. In the current economic climate it makes no sense at all to create a monster council for such a huge area, nor does it make sense to spread the load of a huge debt to more carefully managed councils. Give Devon a central govt loan, perhaps, and watch for improvements over time - then, 10 or 15 years' down the line, maybe Devon will be fit to join the success list of East Devon. Let the failing council (financially) learn from other, more successful, models - even set up mentoring between them, but PLEASE DON'T UNITE THEM INTO ONE EVEN BIGGER MESS!!!</p> |
| 10 | Mrs S Gordon | <p>As a long time resident of West Devon I am not in favour of the proposed single unitary authority for Devon.</p> <p>Devon is a large, rural county (with the exception of Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay) and as such needs smaller more local authorities which will understand the very real problems experienced in the community - transport, housing, jobs - for example - which exist in the large towns but in a different way. The countryside, farming and rural communities are a very important part of England and I fear that these will become swallowed up by the march towards larger urban authorities.</p> |
| 11 | A D Johnson | <p>The removal of the District Council tier of Government makes sense, if it is matched by a clear delegation of authority, funding and responsibilities to local towns and villages. The centralisation of strategic powers from the District level to County also make sense, provided that staffing levels at the County level are not allowed to increase. In Devon it is very important that the "county town" is retained as a central administrative hub. The creation of a separate "county" authority, alongside an Exeter unitary is to create overlapping geographical and structural organizations with the consequent room for inefficiency and mismanagement.</p> |

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| 12 | Noel Harrower | <p>I support the concept of a Devon County Council unitary authority because Exmouth would have its own voice as a large town in the administrative county.</p> <p>We have never had that privilege throughout the period that East Devon District Council has held power. I believe, therefore, that Devon County Control would be more democratic.</p> |
| 13 | lynda mckenzie | <p>I am very concerned about the current review. The East Devon District Council performs well and controls costs, responding to the local communities needs and requests. An enlarged council would burden rural communities with Exeter District's ridiculous debt. If they cannot balance their books with the current size, they certainly will not have a chance with an enlarged area. The public will not benefit, it will suffer from increases in all costs. Mark my words. I am NOT supportive of this change. It is not progress, it is not improvement it is a retrograde step. It will NOT cut costs for the individual.</p> |
| 14 | Nick Brown | <p>I am very concerned about the proposal for a single unitary authority for Devon. The geographical size of the county means there are considerable differences between the different areas. North Devon is a very different place, with different concerns and issues to south Devon. In a single unitary authority the number of representatives proposed for North Devon would put us in a minority and at serious risk of being overlooked or ignored. I would strongly urge a reconsideration with at least 2 authorities for Devon (not including Exeter & Exmouth if that is to be a separate area). A north/south split would be much better. In addition I am concerned about investment in education. Exeter has had nearly all its schools rebuilt, which is where the bulk of DCC education spending has gone in recent years. Many rural schools in Devon, both secondary & primary, have been promised investment & rebuilding in the future. Will this be safeguarded? Will the budgets for any new education authorities reflect this? Or will rural Devon once again loose out?</p> |
| 15 | Anthony Spooner | <p>The proposal to combine the EDDC which is in profit, with Devon CC, which is £613,000,000 in debt., causing loss of many jobs in this area is difficult to comprehend. With an area of some 2,500 square miles to cover, and a reduction of No. of councillors to electors to less than one third of the present figure, it is self-evident that human nature being what it is, we will have no real say in decisions affecting us all in East Devon, decisions being taken by people who will have no real knowledge of this area.</p> <p>Whatever reason was given for this proposal, it seems clear that the effects on the local population were not seriously considered - no doubt someone is convinced that they know much more about what is best for us than those of us who live here, but if the benefits can somehow outweigh the disadvantages mentioned I would like to hear the argument, together with an explanation as to why the points mentioned are irrelevant.</p> |

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| 16 | julie hurley | <p>It is essential that our thriving seaside town is left as it is, it works extremely well as it is, i'm an estate agent and i speak to several people everyday who would do anything to be able to move to the town which they fall in love with on their first visit, and then return time and time again. I am also a member of Teignmouth Carnival Committee, we have had a very successful carnival week this year, and we couldn't do it without the help and support of teignbridge district council who have guided us through the red tape of health & safety, risk assesment, litter clearing, rubbish collection, they have worked very closely with us to ensure public safety, please don't change something that doesn't need change!!</p> |
| 17 | David Kirk | <p>This proposal is badly thought out. Devon is far too big to be one authority. The alternative option is almost as bad. Devon should be split into 4 or 5 unitary authorities. Plymouth should be enlarged into South Hams and West Devon. Torbay should be enlarged into South Hama and Teignbridge. Exeter sould enlarge into East Devon and probably north and west. the remainder could be one authority. Whatever you do, do not make one authority.</p> |
| 18 | D K Hill | <p>I fully support the proposal for a single unitary authority for Devon, excluding plymouth and Torbay. This will maintain the identity of Devon County. It also provides the best solution economically given that Exeter and Exmouth are the two largest urban areas in Devon and without them rural Devon would struggle.</p> <p>The new unitary authority should take the opportunity to review representation for its constituents and allow local decision-making where appropriate through devolving some powers to Town Councils.</p> |
| 19 | Helen Dimond | <p>I have previously lived in ilfracombe and worked for both North and Mid Devon District Councils. I support the proposal for a single Devon unitary authority. In my field, the conservation of the historic environment , there would be considerable benefit . At present rural district councils have only one or two conservation officers and rely on the County for archeological advice and for the maintenance of the Historic Environment Record. The Heritage Protection Bill proposes a reform of the current system and it would be logical to have a single team responsible for all aspects of heritage protection.</p> <p>There is a considerable difference in both the outlook and prosperity of North and South Devon and the only way that I can see a unitary authority working is if it covers the whole of the county and includes Exeter. I do have some concerns about the size of the authority but feel that this could be overcome with the use of the community boards based on market towns. There does however seem to be considerable disparity in their size and I would suggest that Barnstaple and Bideford should be given separate boards. I also think the boundary of Plymouth should be extended, particularly with the development of Sherford .</p> <p>The proposals do seem somewhat redolent of the pre 1974 position with County, County Boroughs, Urban and Rural Districts based on market towns! It would be good if a consistent and settled pattern of local government could be determined for the whole country (why is a county wide unitary authority appropriate for Devon and Cornwall but not for Somerset?). This is the</p> |

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| | | fourth reorganisation of local government imposed by central government in the last 40 years. Each time this involves considerable distraction, disruption and diversion of resources for local authorities with consequent difficulties in the delivery of efficient and effective services. |
| 20 | Ian Jacombs | A totally ridiculous idea to remove local influence and replace it with a bureaucratic body which will undoubtedly become isolated and out of touch with the needs of individual communities. |
| 21 | Mrs.J.E. Creighton | Devon will be far better served being treated as the two distinctly different regions, North and South, which they are already are not only geographically, but also in relation to types of industry, agriculture, population, tourism, etc. Northern DEvon is generally a much poorer and more rural part of the county and I feel that if all decisions are made centrally from, say, Exeter their particular needs will not be either well represented or understood. |
| 22 | NV Vaughan-Smith | <p>I have read the Boundary Committee's review of Devon with great interest, but am unable to support fully their recommendations. I am in total agreement that there are far too many layers of local government and, in particular, that there is no case for retaining both County and District Councils. The arguments contained in the Review for replacing the current structure with a single Unitary Council for Devon are strong and compelling, but collapse immediately with the recommendation that the current Unitary Authorities in Plymouth and Torbay remain. I would support a single Unitary Council for the whole of Devon, but not for only part. As an East Devon resident, I see no advantage in having Unitary Councils for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. If Plymouth and Torbay are not incorporated into a single Unitary Council for Devon, then I feel most strongly that the current District Councils should be given unitary status and the current County Council abolished. Secondly, I would have liked to have seen a recommendation in the Review to reduce significantly the number of councillors; they cost too much for too little return. Thirdly, I was horrified at the suggestion that a possible option would be to have a unitary council covering Exeter and Exmouth. The needs of the two communities are diametrically opposed.</p> <p>Finally, a good practical solution might be to align the local government unitary council areas to those used for electing MPs and that the MP should then be a member of the Council and directly responsible to the Council for representing the local residents at Parliament. This way we could also reduce the number of MPs and the incredible tax burden they generate.</p> |
| 23 | David Tyrrell | I am against the proposal for a new unitary authority covering the whole of Devon, with the exception of Torbay and Plymouth. I feel this will be too large, both geographically and in ward size. Here in West Devon, residents will be too remote from the decision making process. My preference would be to stay as we are or, if that is not possible, to merge with a neighbouring Borough Council but not Plymouth. |
| 24 | e willias | A single Devon Council would be less confusing. So many different council does almost the same job is time wasting for councils and the public trying to complain about their living conditions. There are too many people around calling themselves councillors and yet doing nothing, even when they know there is a problem. The general public need to know where to go and who to go to for assistance without being passed from one council to another when even the councils don't appear to know what they are required to do. |
| 25 | roy morrish | A Devon wide Authority and the dissolution of District Councils is the way to go. Less snouts in the Public Trough |

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| 26 | Anthony Cook | I am in favour of the abolishment of the existing District Councils in Devon as proposed by the Boundary Commission, and would like to see more power being given to Parish Councils who are more knowledgeable about local matters in rural areas such as mine. |
| 27 | P Blowey | The proposed single unitary council to govern the whole of Devon is unmanageable and it is too big an area for one body to govern. I am therefore against the proposed change. |
| 28 | Melanie Sealey | I would prefer Exeter to remain part of a Unitary Devon. Currently Exeter Council has no experience of running Exeter schools and I feel the option for a unitary Exeter will be uneconomic and also create upheavals in the education system in Exeter and the expanded unitary area. I previously lived in Brighton for 10 years and saw the effect of the Brighton Unitary on the rest of East Sussex which was left as a poor rural county with little infrastructure or government funding. The impact on the rest of Devon from the removal of Exeter, which is an employment and business hub could be similar. |
| 29 | tracey bell | Monkton Parish Council is against the principle of a unitary Devon authority until we have seen further detail of both practical and financial implications. We fear rural parishes will not be best represented by the 28 market and coastal town community boards and have grave concerns over how this will affect our services. The time scale given for the changeover is unreasonably short and we are concerned that this will have long term financial implications. |
| 30 | Karen Silcox | I have worked for both councils recently and I can see the pros and cons for both arguments. With the unitary Devon proposal I am concerned that there will not be enough councillors to do all the work that is required. I am also concerned services will be less well managed because the services will be so big, problems will not be noticed. If these 2 issues can be addressed I will feel happier about this proposal. Thanks |
| 31 | sue paradise | The Butterleigh Parish Meeting is, first and foremost, opposed to Exeter becoming a unitary authority in its own right. They feel that both city and villages are inter-dependent, and the electorate are best served by administering them as a coherent whole, at the top level. The Meeting is cautiously in favour of the current proposal for one Unitary Authority for Devon, bar Plymouth and Torbay, on the understanding that the promised increases in not only democracy but efficiency will lead to real cost-savings which may benefit residents. |
| 32 | Joan Freeland | TOO large for unitary. Much better to divide Devon into smaller unitaries by expanding Plymouth and Torbay and creating new unitaries based on Exeter and Barnstaple. I have lived and worked for successful unitaries eg South Gloucestershire. The worst one I ever lived in and worked for was AVON - too BIG. In East Devon we have no connection whatsoever with South Devon or North Devon - they are too far away. We want an East Devon Unitary with Exeter included, otherwise it will be far too remote. I don't like the idea of grouping parishes together, either - the whole point of a parish is that it serves one village. It would just create another layer of Government which defeats the whole purpose of having a unitary authority. In East Devon we have different needs from other parts of Devon. This would be a big EXPENSIVE mistake. |

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| 33 | Colin Green | We need more local democracy, not less, so my wife and I are opposed to the transfer of powers from East Devon to Devon and have serious misgivings about Exmouth becoming a satellite to Exeter. |
| 34 | Guy Pannell | I disagree strongly with the Committee's proposal for one authority to cover the whole of Devon (apart from Plymouth, Torbay and possibly Exeter/ Exmouth). Despite the creation of unelected Area Boards I feel that South and North Devon are so far apart geographically that one authority for all services will never be able to consider the interests of each small community fairly. I feel that one Devon would weaken the link between voters and their elected representatives and lead to a further dilution of the democratic process and interest in local government. I strongly favour the suggestion of a number of smaller authorities, based on a combination of existing district councils, such as the West Devon/South Hams/Teignbridge proposal, with others for North and perhaps Mid and East Devon. This sensible idea seems to have been dismissed out of hand by the Boundary Committee with no proper consideration or explanation. I would be interest to know why you have given this idea such short shrift. |
| 35 | Roger and Fiona Hennah | We are opposed to the idea of EDDC being swallowed up into a single Devon council. It seems to us it is efficient and effective and free of debt...what more do we need? |
| 36 | R Bushell | I support the case for one unitary authority keeping Devon united |
| 37 | T J Rutherford | <p>The existing Devon CC is too remote and disinterested in the needs of small rural communities. We never hear from the DCC Representative for this area. At least with our Torridge DC Representative we can easily contact him because he lives locally and makes it his business to keep in touch with local opinion. The new arrangements will not enhance local democracy - rather the oposite. Why not create 2 councils - one for the North and Mid Devon Areas and the other for South Devon, Exeter and the hinterland between Torbay and Plymouth Unitary Areas.</p> <p>I am also very concerned at the redundancy costs that will inevitably arise from these mergers. We are not just talking about a few senior executive posts. The costs could be large and as a tax payer I worry about who will pay for them?</p> <p>To make the proposed system work sevicees will have to be merged and centralised. This will lead to a lack of accountability and local access to services.</p> <p>On a big local issue - recycling - there are currently many different systems operating in the County. They are not even consistent about what can be recycled and what can be composted. Even the bin colours are different area by area.I dread to think of the chaos that will ensue when the contracts for this have to be standardised.</p> <p>In short I have grave misgivings that this has been properly thought out. It strikes me as a quick fix idea because Exeter CC objected to the last idea proposed.</p> |

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| 38 | Phil Baker | I think the proposals will not adequately meet the needs of disparate rural communities. A county as diverse as Devon should not be covered by one unitary council, with local services and public involvement in the democratic process likely to suffer as result of centralising all local government services to Exeter. Whatever cost saving has been identified will be more than offset by the loss of links between residents and their local council. |
| 39 | Laurelie Gifford | Why change something that is working perfectly well? Local people want local decision making and access physically as well as by phone/on line to the decision makers and to be able to attend meetings locally. The costs of aligning IT systems, payrolls, financial systems, will be horrendous not just in money, but person hours wasted on current systems which are currently being enhanced and supported, only to be dumped. And then all remaining staff will have to be retrained on the new systems. What a waste of time. |
| 40 | Magnus Pahlsson | The suggestion to centralise is utter madness as local issues need to be considered by local people, not by people in other districts with no or little knowledge of such local issues. Frankly, local democracy is threatened by the proposal which is no different than to abolish DCC in full as Whitehall would save manpower and money to make all decisions themselves. Rural communities must have a say in their own specific policies and priorities. |
| 41 | TRACEY DARE | Why on earth would the people of East Devon want to merge with a council that is half a billion pounds in debt? God help us if this unitary bid goes ahead. Our council tax bills will double overnight, not to mention quality of services currently enjoyed by residents in East Devon. And what about the staff of EDDC? A hefty proportion of them will lose their jobs! Leave EDDC alone as it is, please!! Unitary status? Big, big mistake. |
| 42 | Rowena Whter | I have not previously written in respect of the Boundary Committee review of Devon but I find myself so astonished at the Committee's proposal to subsume Exeter into a unitary Devon that I now feel compelled to do so. I have lived in Exeter for nearly 20 years and have in that time witnessed its transition from a lively but provincial 'large town' into a dynamic, cosmopolitan city. Although I love the county of Devon, Exeter has a very strong character in its own right which is very different from that of the rural county. In my experience Exeter has been administered efficiently and effectively by the City Council who are well-acquainted with the particular strengths, weaknesses, needs and desires of the City. This has been borne out by the Audit Commission's 'excellent' rating and the Charter Mark awarded in respect of many of the City Council's services. Is this not an indication of an authority worth expanding rather than one to be abolished? Furthermore the City has an 800 year history of controlling its own affairs - surely the Boundary Committee and Government cannot believe they have the right to bring this to an end? They cannot seriously believe the Council can be replaced by some sort of city board? I do not believe that the economic success of Exeter should be used to bail out Devon County Council and I am totally |

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| | | <p>appalled at the thought of the city of Exeter being subsumed into a vastly oversized (second largest to Birmingham!) county council. I am baffled as to how this fits in with the Government's policy of community empowerment and bringing local authorities closer to residents? My own local Councillors are particularly effective and as a resident I have the satisfaction of watching local issues raised through them being debated and resolved by a local Council.</p> <p>Nevertheless I wholeheartedly agree that the current two-tier system of local Government should come to an end as this causes considerable confusion and duplication. I feel that the City Council has a very strong case for becoming a unitary authority on the extended boundaries proposed by the City Council. This case has been well-made and remains my preferred option.</p> <p>However since this option does not currently appear to be on the table, I believe the Boundary Committee's suggestion of extending Exeter to include Exmouth has considerable merit. I am very familiar with the town of Exmouth and believe there is logic in the coastal town and city combining to deliver services as a unitary authority and that this would be of benefit to both. The size would make it a viable authority – they have enough similarities to make it workable and enough differences to make it exciting. I can also see some justification for a unitary Council administering the rest of Devon (excluding Plymouth, Torbay and Exeter) since the other districts of Devon have much in common by virtue of their predominantly rural nature. However to include urban Exeter in this mix would merely lead to conflicting interests and dissatisfaction.</p> <p>In summary I would implore the Government to reject the Boundary Committee's preferred option of a unitary Devon and urge it to support a unitary Exeter on expanded boundaries.</p> |
| 43 | Worlin | <p>The boundary committee obviously has no idea of the impact this is going to have to each householder. I strongly object to being run by an establishment that is obviously looking for a way out to spread its enormous debt. How can the proposed authority attempt to run an area when obviously it can't even get its own house in order. This is bureaucracy gone mad, EDDC have done a wonderful amount of work in keeping us debt free and solvent and long may it continue.</p> |
| 44 | Roderick MacCuaig | <p>I would like to oppose the passing of the EDDC which appears to be an effective and competent local district council which serves this area well.</p> |
| 45 | P.T.Churchill | <p>Do not remove local government further from the people. East Devon District Council is better than many and is LOCAL. We do not want to be governed by faceless people who are more distant from us.</p> |
| 46 | Bowler | <p>The proposal to create an all Devon Unitary Authority is completely against most people's interests. It is being considered by an administration that does not possess a democratic mandate for such sweeping changes.</p> |

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| 47 | Tina Day | <p>If there is to be any change to the status quo (and the costs of reorganisation in time, money and disruption, are always greatly underestimated), then I strongly support the proposal put forward for a unitary Devon authority. This proposal is based on real communities and would empower them more than the status quo, as well as giving the necessary strategic capacity and critical mass. It is essential that Exeter forms part of the proposal, this is why it is the county town. I strongly oppose the other suggestion of an Exeter/Exmouth environs type unitary- this would be disastrous for the remaining rump county areas, while still incurring all the cost of reorganisation. I hope you proceed with the Devon unitary proposal if change there has to be.</p> |
| 48 | Martin Owen | <p>I comment as a member of the public and Shop owner in the town where EDDC are based.</p> <p>I think the consolidation of Councils is a very good idea. There should be significant savings by abolishing duplication of roles, office accommodation etc. Having EDDC close to the town of Sidmouth adds no value to the town despite their own reports which contradicts this. They have one of the largest car parks in the area which is Free to employees however they control the issuing of expensive parking permits for all other workers in the town who do not have the luxury of free parking. EDDC seem very resource loaded for the roles carried out which ultimately affects our charges.</p> <p>No one likes to see job losses but if it can be shown that we will all benefit then the sooner it happens the better.</p> |
| 49 | Mr G.Giles IRRV & Mrs M Giles | <p>Our preference is the "Exeter-Exmouth" proposal. This would create a strong unitary authority of ideal size. Exmouth & surrounding areas are very closely linked, geographically, commercially, & culturally. Consequently the remaining Devon county area would be more compact & linked by a similarity of identity, interests & problems.</p> |
| 50 | Howard J Rippiner | <p>Dear Sirs</p> <p>I am totally against the proposed unitary authority for Devon. As you are well aware, Devon covers a large geographical area and hence it is important that we have Local Authority councillors who live in the area on which they are asked to make decisions of planning, expansion etc. This is currently achieved by having smaller local authorities - in our case, East Devon District Council. Also, I understand that moving from a local-authority based structure to a unitary authority, would mean having just one councillor per 7,000 electors as opposed to the current one per 2,200 (approx) electors. This would be a very retrograde step and is totally unacceptable to residents of East Devon.</p> <p>Finally, I understand that Devon County Council currently have a deficit of £613,000,000 where as EDDC has no debt and money in the bank. That money belongs to the Council Tax payers of East Devon and must be used for their benefit - not the rest of Devon's benefit. No doubt if we were to move to a unitary authority, that money would be 'swallowed up' in an effort to cover the losses accrued by Devon County Council.</p> |

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| | | I trust (and hope) that common sense will prevail in Hazel Blear's department and the 'status quo will be allowed to remain in tact. |
| 51 | Paul Evans | I do not agree with the single unitary option for Devon - it would be far to big and remote. even at its current size Devon County is percieved as being remote and overly complex. Re potential cost savings - I doubt any proposed setup costs and ongoing saving will be realistic. I would argue that the current structure works well - with each authority in tune with its local community and priorities. option 2 the Greater Exeter model would be favouable - particulary to those based in Exeter and the new proposed area. I do hope for the sake of Devon that one giant authorty is allowed to go through - particulary if it is based upon an unlikely finacial premis and effiiciencies that can not be proven until implemented. |
| 52 | Mrs A M C Wannell | <p>The proposal to form a single Devon Council ito include Exeter is an insult to the history and present of the people of Exeter.</p> <p>Unitary status was requested to enable Exeter to live and run its day-to-day affairs without interference or having to go cap-in-hand to the County Council for the very basic minimum needs.</p> <p>Here in Heavitree we have already lost our library, others round the county has also gone. Schools are now being affected because of the mismanagement of funds by the present County Council. They have spent valuable Council Tax money on attempting to brainwash the residents of Exeter into submission by sending out glossy leaflets outlining all they have done for us Exonians, the majority of which work was carried out by ECC.</p> <p>Exeter ruled itself for over 800 years. It was no worse than many other councils given that it had a lot of rebuilding to do after the war. Indeed it was one of the better ones, around the country, many of whom have already retained their single status. To lump us together with one of the most inefficient moneywasting councils would be a slur to the good name of the Councillors and residents of Exeter who deserve better. The present dual system needs to be abolished, but not to make way for a disjointed council of such a large county, where there are so many diverse needs that local information would not necessarily be taken into account.</p> <p>North Devon is a completely different area to South Devon. East Devon and West Devon are completely dissimilar, so to lump us all together does not make sense, and will almost certainly increase the Council Tax required to be paid by each and every one.</p> <p>With unitary staus for Exeter, one Council for one city (possibly enlarged) is the only option to be considered.</p> |

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| 53 | R Trew | Devon is a very large area with poor road & rail links between the north & south of the county - with Dartmoor placed centrally, this exacerbates links throughout the county. Indeed, ask any local person and they will tell you that North & South Devon have separate identities and requirements. East Devon including Exeter is another area which has its own identity. It makes more sense to have a tri-unitary approach: North, South & East Devon Unitary Councils (Plymouth & Torbay should remain untouched) with an improved Dartmoor National Park Authority working in partnership with the three main Unitary Councils. This will result in the preservation of identity throughout the County and enable each area to focus on its differing requirements, whilst maintaining healthy travel to work carbon footprints. |
| 54 | nick russell | I wish to record my preference for a single Devon Unitary Authority (bar Plymouth and Torbay), INCLUDING Exeter and Exmouth. |
| 55 | Allan Cooper | A single unitary council for Devon would mean a more remote and so poorer level of accountability for services for East Devon District Council (EDDC) residents. It would also lead to a poorer level of services to EDDC residents as a unitary Devon council would start from a debt position of over half a billion pounds, whereas EDDC has no debt and can therefore afford to offer higher quality/value services to residents. In the most unfortunate event that a unitary Devon council is decided upon, anything other than a cash repayment of EDDC surpluses to EDDC residents before the imposition of a unitary authority, would amount to theft and be a matter for law. |
| 56 | Barbara Cooper | I think our local government should continue to be EDDC, as the proposed new boundary will become far too remote for our local affairs to be decided according to the district's needs and preferences. |
| 57 | Brian Hawkes | I feel strongly that the proposal for a Unitary Authority is a bad one. Although some money might be saved by the abolition of District Councils, the proposed community boards would probably cost just as much. Also the unitary authority would be too remote, compared with East Devon District Council, which performs well. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". |
| 58 | Robin Musgrave | The exercise has been badly conducted and a Devon Unitary Authority is too big |
| 59 | Mr Rodney Dunford | <p>This is my third year living in the south hams and in that time I have had a reasonable amount of dealings / correspondence with South Hams District Council with regard to myself and also on behalf of others. I have found South Hams District Council to be absolutely superb in every aspect of any dealings / correspondence with them. Their performance matches that of any council in the country and they are very able to deal with and meet the needs of the people of the south hams and are very aware of the diversity of needs arising from the urban and rural areas.</p> <p>My Concerns; Will this be swallowed up by the merger of councils? Can Devon County Council step up to give the service we currently experience under South Hams District Council? - or will we have to step down to levels such as I have experienced previously living in Plymouth?</p> <p>Looking at the bigger picture the logistics of the merger can be greatly beneficial and if the needs of the people are still met to the standards they previously experienced - then that makes everyone a winner.</p> |

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| | | Good Luck To You. |
| 60 | N Clive Gaywood | <p>If the government is genuine in its claims to provide good services to the public, it should ensure that local communities are represented by locally elected councillors at District and Town council levels. Otherwise local knowledge and experience will be lost. Communities will be controlled by remote bureaucratic organisations, comprising mainly un-elected officers, who will have no knowledge of local affairs and the importance of those affairs in the daily life of citizens across the county of Devon and who do not have to answer to the electorate. [This will also apply nationally]. Is it not time for democratically elected councillors to manage and make decisions affecting local citizens and for paid officers to follow the lead of the councillors and listen to the reasonable expectations of citizens? There is no justification in controlling a whole county from a central office other than in the raw context of cost savings at the expense of bespoke local services. No organisation would be capable of successfully managing such a diverse and unwieldy spread of population and communities. Central Government must begin to think about the views of the electorate before it is too late. Please re-think the arguments and listen to the proposals made by East Devon District Council. These do make sense and I recommend that they form the basis of any reorganisation within Devon. Please think again and leave the District Councils in place and give greater powers to Town councils. In this way you will have an electorate which begins to believe that Government listens and understands the problems which would be faced by communities in Devon were the published proposals be allowed to proceed..</p> |
| 61 | Mr S Gammon | <p>the proposal of essentially one unitary County seems to fly in the face of some of the key objectives, namely local accountability, efficiency and ability to change, to provide strategic direction and support for local economies.</p> <p>the unitary structure proposed cannot provide local accountability, the residents of various towns and parishes will clearly have difficulty relating to a Council that is sited many miles from their local area with decisions made by elected members who are not resident in and/or have no knowledge of local issues</p> <p>the existing County Council is a large unwieldy machine, with large debts, and as with any large organisation is slow to change and meet changing demands. The proposal is effectively to make this an even larger lumbering giant which has the capacity to absorb and hide enormous inefficiencies and rack up huge costs. The scale of the organisation will also inevitably inhibit local accountability resulting in perceived bureaucracy hampering the ability to change to fit local demands and circumstances</p> <p>local people want a (relatively) local Council, where they can go with any issue and know that they can relate to the people and the organisation and the job will get done.</p> |
| 62 | Alan Cheshire | I agree with the Boundary Commission's report and agree that Devon should be kept united. |
| 63 | Robert Whiteley | I agree with the proposal to have a unitary Devon council, and at the same time I believe more powers and responsibility should be given to Parish & Town councils. Things which directly affect those in the parish could be given to that Parish or Town council. This would mean local issues could be dealt with by local people, after all that's what everyone wants isn't it. |
| 64 | IAN LANGLEY | I am disgusted that any proposal to merge East Devon with any larger, more remote, less accountable and in-debt body is even being considered. This is total madness and will only result in myself and other people in my community here in East |

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| | | Devon being expected to subsidise the mis-management and unnecessary funding of activity that is so remote from us to be totally irrelevant to us. Let local people manage local services in the cost effective way that they always have done and leave well alone. Hands off east Devon! |
| 65 | Pamela H Tomlinson | I was delighted to see the proposal for a single unitary council for remaining Devon (outside Torbay and Plymouth.) I believe a unitary council provides a much more logical structure for providing services across the whole area and in particular avoids the expense of disaggregating the existing county council. A Devon without Exeter makes no sense at all and the mention of an "Exeter and Exmouth" idea is simply a distraction in my view. I hope the transition can be managed smoothly and with the commitment of district councils and partner agencies who are key to making it work. |
| 66 | Carol Green | I think Devon is too big to be a unitary authority. We already have problems with Devon County Council which is too remote, and doesn't solve the problems. Any representative will have to cover far too big an area and be completely out of touch with local needs. |
| 67 | Jemma Sharman | Moving towards one Devon council will remove resources from rural areas. It will also be centralised power and there will be less access to democratic decision making. The boundary committee seemed to have ignored rural concerns and made their own decision. This consultation process will probably have no affect on boundary decisions. I would support a rural combined council of West Devon Borough Council, Teignbridge and South Hams District Council. |