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Mr A Gall  
Director  
The Boundary Committee for England  
Trevelyan House  
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Our Ref: CD/AH  
Date: 6 November 2008

## **STRUCTURAL REVIEW OF SUFFOLK: QUESTION ABOUT COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Further to your letter of 27 October, please find below our joint response to your question:

You'll have seen from our submission that we are excited at the opportunity presented by the structural review of Suffolk to reconnect and re-invigorate relationships between the new authority and local communities. We believe a Community Governance Review would provide a comprehensive means for examining the wider community governance needs in Ipswich.

Our submission states our belief that it is important Ipswich's governance supports its identity, boosts its civic pride and ensures it has a strong voice. A Community Governance Review would support this ambition by:

- Building relationships between the new authority and local communities and ensuring their views are taken into account;
- Fitting with the phased roll out approach suggested in our submission (paragraph 106) - this would facilitate early discussion on governance arrangements in Ipswich;
- Ensuring existing forums are taken into account;
- Establishing the most locally relevant and appropriate means of community governance;
- Enabling full consideration of the best arrangement for Ipswich's ceremonial mayor and civic privileges;
- Making recommendations based on the sense of local identity and improved community cohesion.

We know, of course, that you recognise that the final decision on holding a community governance Review would be taken by the Implementation Executive. However, both our councils would be keen to see early and open dialogue with local stakeholders to ensure the best governance model for Ipswich was implemented as soon as possible. Ideally, we

would like to undertake the Community Governance Review before 2010 so that the outcome could influence the electoral boundaries review for the new unitary.

If you have any further queries regarding this or other aspects of our submission, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Good  
Chief Executive  
Mid Suffolk District Council

Andrea Hill  
Chief Executive  
Suffolk County Council