

Summary

Draft proposal 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 we were requested to advise the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on an alternative unitary structure of local government in Devon. This request for advice followed a bid for unitary status from Exeter City Council.

On 7 July 2008 we published our draft proposal, on which comments are invited.

Our draft proposal for Devon is:

- a Devon unitary authority comprising the existing county of Devon, with no changes to Plymouth and Torbay

Our proposal for Devon is set out in detail in chapter 4 of the report. Maps illustrating our draft proposal are set out in Appendix B of the report.

Our approach to this review, and the general and specific considerations we have had regard to in conducting our work, are set out in chapter 2 of the report.

What happens next?

There will now be a period of 12 weeks, during which we welcome views on our draft proposal. All representations should be sent to reach us by **26 September 2008**.

We have not finalised our proposal for a unitary pattern of local government in Devon. In the light of representations received, we will review our draft proposal and consider whether it should be altered. It is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with our draft proposal.

We have also included in the report another pattern of unitary local government that we considered had merit, which people may wish to bear in mind when considering the draft proposal:

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

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

We welcome views and evidence from all those who have previously written to us and 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. Accordingly, representations received will be made available for public inspection at our offices in Trevelyan House. Submissions will also be available on our website at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk.

If you make comments during this period of the review, and do not want all or any part of your response or name made public, please state this clearly in the response. 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.

After 26 September 2008 we will consider all the representations we have received and start to formulate our final advice, which we have been asked to submit to the Secretary of State by 31 December 2008.

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 our advice there will then be a further period of four weeks during which representations may be made directly to the Secretary of State. 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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Part of the Electoral Commission