

8 December 2009

Dear parish or town clerk

STRUCTURAL REVIEW OF SUFFOLK: ADVICE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

In February 2008, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government asked the Boundary Committee for England to advise on unitary local government structure in Suffolk. This followed an earlier proposal made to the Secretary of State by Ipswich Borough Council for unitary status on its existing boundaries.

In order to give the Secretary of State advice, the Committee been conducting a review in Suffolk and asking people for their views on unitary structures.

The Committee has now completed its review in Suffolk and has provided advice to the Secretary of State, and made alternative proposals for unitary local government in Suffolk.

I enclose a summary of the Committee's report, outlining our alternative proposals for unitary local government in Suffolk. The report can be accessed via our website, at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-structural-review. We will also send the county and district councils hard copies of the reports in the week commencing 14 December 2009 and ask that they are made available at their offices, libraries and information points.

It is now for the Secretary of State to take a decision on whether:

- to implement the original (i.e. Ipswich's) proposal, with or without modification
- to implement either of our alternative proposals, with or without modification, or
- to take no action

It is also open to the Secretary of State to request further information or advice from the Committee. Before taking his statutory decisions there will be a period for representations to be made to the Secretary of State about either of our alternative proposals or the original proposal. This period will run from 8 December 2009 until 19 January 2010. You can express your views by emailing SuffolkStructures@communities.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to:

Unitary Structures Team
Department for Communities and Local Government
Zone 3/J1 Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

More information on the review process in general, including the Secretary of State's intended approach to taking his statutory decisions, can be found on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website, at:
www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/restructuring/boundarycommittee

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kalim Anwer', written in a cursive style.

Kalim Anwer
Review Officer
kanwer@electoralcommission.org.uk
020 7271 0680