

From the councils of Corby, Daventry, East Northamptonshire, Kettering, Northampton, Northamptonshire County, South Northamptonshire and Wellingborough

Local Government Reform in Northamptonshire – town and parish councils

There is just over a month to go until the Government's deadline for receiving local government reform proposals for Northamptonshire.

You will be aware that all eight authorities in the county have been working on a proposal for the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, which must be submitted by 31 August 2018.

Formal consultation on this proposal closed recently (22 July), with over 5,000 responses confirmed. Final numbers should be available soon and responses will be collated by Opinion Research Services (ORS) the company employed to carry out the survey.

Our thanks to the many of you who have contributed to the consultation, including the 117 town and parish representatives who took part in the sessions at Towcester and Wellingborough earlier in July.

Your feedback will be used to inform and develop the proposal, which will then be presented to each council for consideration ahead of the submission deadline.

What happens next

Work is now taking place to develop a final proposal, which will be accompanied by reports from consultants ORS and PriceWaterhouse Coopers (PWC).

The proposal will be presented to each of the eight authorities for their consideration at a series of council meetings scheduled to take place from 28-30 August, ahead of the submission deadline on 31 August.

Committee papers for these meetings will be published by each council on 20 August.

The Borough Council of Wellingborough's council meeting will take place on Tuesday, 28 August 2018 @ 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

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A reminder of the Government's criteria

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has asked that the county's eight authorities submit a proposal that meets the following criteria:

- A single countywide unitary is explicitly excluded as an option
- Each new proposed authority must have a population substantially in excess of 300,000
- The proposal must be based on existing council boundaries.

In addition to the criteria set out by the Secretary of State, Government has stated:

- Only one proposal will be accepted, not a range of options
- It must demonstrate clear potential for savings
- It must command a good deal of local support
- Due consideration should be given to recommendations in the Best Value Report
- Any solution should prioritise the Government's wider housing and growth agenda
- Extensive consultation must be carried out.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Quincey – Interim Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Council

David Oliver - Chief Executive of East Northamptonshire District Council

George Candler – Chief Executive of Northampton Borough Council

Graham Soulsby – MD of Kettering Borough Council

Ian Vincent – Chief Executive of Daventry District Council

Liz Elliott – MD of Borough Council of Wellingborough

Norman Stronach – Chief Executive of Corby Borough Council

Yvonne Rees – Chief Executive of South Northamptonshire District Council