



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

27 March 2018

Graham Soulsby
Managing Director
Kettering Borough Council
Municipal Offices
Bowling Green Road
Kettering
Northants
NN15 7QX

Dear Graham,

Invitation to submit a proposal for a single tier of local government in Northamptonshire

The Secretary of State today has announced in a statement to Parliament how he proposes to proceed following receipt on 15 March 2018 of the Northamptonshire County Council Best Value Inspection report. In his statement he also announced that he is inviting the principal councils in Northamptonshire to develop and submit locally led proposals for establishing unitary authorities across the county which will be right for the communities and people they serve. Accordingly, he is exercising his powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("2007 Act") to invite Northamptonshire councils to make proposals for restructuring local government, and I enclose the statutory Invitation to your council along with statutory guidance from the Secretary of State.

As you will see, a proposal in response to the Invitation can be submitted by an individual council or jointly with some or all of the other councils in Northamptonshire. Proposals should be received no later than Friday 27 July 2018.

The Invitation is to submit what the 2007 Act refers to as a 'combined proposal'. A combined proposal may be, for example, a proposal for two or more Type B proposals under the Act (a Type B proposal being a proposal for a unitary authority for the area of one or more districts which form part of a county area), or a proposal consisting of one or more Type B and Type C proposals (a Type C proposal being a proposal for a unitary authority for an area which is part of a county and one or more adjoining districts in an adjacent county). It should be noted therefore that a proposal for a single unitary authority covering the entirety of Northamptonshire is not an option under the Invitation.

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The guidance, to which any authority making a proposal must have regard, sets out what any proposal should seek to achieve, and the matters to be taken into account in formulating a proposal. In particular, any proposal should seek to achieve unitary structures which are likely to:

- Improve local government and service delivery across the area;
- Be based on a credible geography; and
- Command a good deal of local support.

These are therefore the criteria against which any proposal will be assessed.

Other factors that should be taken into account in formulating any proposal include the findings and recommendations of the Northamptonshire County Council Best Value Inspection report, and wider regional issues such as how a new authority might be able to boost housing delivery and contribute to the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford growth corridor.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch, and if it would be helpful, I would of course be happy to meet you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,



P ROWSELL