

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR A SINGLE TIER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, in exercise of his powers under Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, hereby invites any principal authority for an area that is the whole or part of the county of Northamptonshire to make, in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 3 below, a combined proposal that there should be a single tier of local government for areas which together comprise an area of which that county is the whole or part.

1. Any proposal must be made by 27 July 2018.
2. In responding to this invitation an authority must have regard to the guidance from the Secretary of State set out in the Schedule to this invitation, and to any further guidance on responding to this invitation received from the Secretary of State.
3. An authority responding to this invitation may either make its own proposal or make a proposal jointly with any of the other authorities invited to respond.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.



P Rowsell

A senior civil servant in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

27 March 2018

SCHEDULE

Paragraphs 1 to 2 below set out guidance from the Secretary of State.

1. A proposal should seek to achieve for the area concerned the establishment of a single tier of local government, that is the establishment of unitary authorities:
 - a. which are likely to improve local government and service delivery across the area of the proposal, giving greater value for money, generating savings, providing stronger strategic and local leadership, and which are more sustainable structures;
 - b. which command a good deal of local support as assessed in the round overall across the whole area of the proposal; and
 - c. where the area of each unitary authority is a credible geography consisting of one or more existing local government areas and having a substantial population that at a minimum is substantially in excess of 300,000.

2. The following matters should be taken into account in formulating a proposal:
 - a. A proposal should describe clearly the single tier local government structures it is putting forward, and explain how, if implemented, these are expected to achieve the outcomes described in paragraph 1 above.
 - b. The need for evidence and analysis to support a proposal and any explanation of the outcomes it is expected to achieve, including evidence of a good deal of local support.
 - c. The report “Northamptonshire County Council Best Value Inspection: January – March 2018”, in particular the inspection team’s recommendation on the preferred way forward involving “the 2 unitary (West and North) model”.
 - d. The wider context for any unitary authorities in Northamptonshire around plans for growth. This includes authorities’ potential contributions to the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor; and the potential for agreement between authorities and the Government to unlock ambitious housing delivery, above the level proposed in the Government’s Local Housing Need assessment.

- e. That there should be extensive local consultation about any proposal before it is made, seeking the views by appropriate means of residents, stakeholders and partners including local enterprise partnerships, health bodies, businesses, and other organisations including voluntary organisations. The means of seeking views may include professionally led open consultation questionnaires, representative household surveys, surveys of parish and town councils, workshops, telephone interviews with other major stakeholders, and inviting written submissions.