



Babergh councillors were reassured that the BCE's own draft two-unitary proposal—including having Public Service Villages in Bury, Stowmarket and Lowestoft, as well as Community Board arrangements across the rural unitary area would go a considerable way towards addressing their previous concerns around the inclusion of Lowestoft in the Rural Suffolk unitary area.

Q: But what about the argument that has been put forward that a single Suffolk council would achieve much greater savings and efficiencies?

A: Both options fulfil the Secretary of State's affordability criteria. On the basis of the analysis undertaken by the independent financial consultants advising the BCE, the differences between projected set up costs and future savings achieved by these two options are not significant. Summaries of these affordability assessments can be found at http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/73272/Suffolk-county-unitary-synopsis--final.pdf and [http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/73273/Suffolk-two-unitary-syn-](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/73273/Suffolk-two-unitary-synopsis--final.pdf)

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We do not believe that the disadvantages of one very large council for the whole of Suffolk are outweighed by any appreciable financial advantages for Suffolk as a whole.

Q: Where can I find more information about Babergh's views on this issue

A: Copies of Babergh's submissions to the BCE are available from the home page of the babergh website (www.babergh.gov.uk) by clicking on Local Government Review.

