

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Chief Executive

REPORT NUMBER: H89

TO: STRATEGY COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 14 AUGUST 2008

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW – THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE’S DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR SUFFOLK

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Following initial consideration by Strategy Committee at its meeting on 31 July 2008 (paper H74), this report provides the opportunity for the Committee to give further consideration to the Boundary Committee’s draft proposals for possible future unitary local government structures in Suffolk.

Members are asked to bring their copies of paper H74; the Boundary Committee’s Draft Proposals for Unitary Local Government in Norfolk and Suffolk, and the Presentation Material from the Members’ Seminar on 5 August.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee considers the draft proposals of the Boundary Committee, together with views expressed by other Members at the Members’ Seminar on 5 August, as summarised at paragraphs 5.11 – 5.14 of this paper, and stakeholder views received to date, as set out in Appendix (a), and provides guidance to Officers on the broad content of a draft consultation response to the Boundary Committee for initial consideration by Full Council on 2 September
- 2.2 The key elements of that draft consultation response be shared with all Town and Parish Councils and other key stakeholders to provide the opportunity for any additional comments to be taken into account before Council finalises its response to the Boundary Committee’s consultation at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 23 September

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly out of this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council’s Significant Business Risk No. 1. Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Seriousness or Impact	Mitigation Measures
<p>Local Government Review Failure to engage in the review process</p> <p>Lack of influence on future local government arrangements</p>	Low	Critical	<p>Strong political and managerial leadership to secure effective engagement with the process</p> <p>Engagement with stakeholders during consultation period</p> <p>Submission of consultation response by deadline</p>

5. **KEY INFORMATION**

- 5.1 At its meeting on 31 July, the Committee gave preliminary consideration to draft proposals by the Boundary Committee for unitary local government structures in Suffolk and Norfolk (paper H74 refers).
- 5.2 The Committee gave particular consideration to how well these draft proposals addressed the key issues that Babergh had highlighted in its original submission in April 2008 to the Boundary Committee at the concept formulation stage of the review process. These issues were principally those summarised at paragraphs 5.10 – 5.17 of paper H74.
- 5.3 The Committee also discussed the informal views of the Political Leaders' Group (PLG) regarding the possible merits of an alternative to the North Haven boundary proposed by the Boundary Committee, as referred to in paragraphs 5.18 – 5.19 of paper H74. That alternative boundary would have the effect of including Hadleigh and some of its neighbouring rural parishes in the proposed North Haven rather than the proposed rural Suffolk unitary council area.
- 5.4 The Committee decided that, in order to assist in developing recommendations to Full Council on this and other aspects of the review, Strategy Committee should be as well informed as possible on the emerging views of other Babergh Members. It was therefore decided that Member views, including those on possible alternative boundaries to the North Haven unitary (as shown at Appendix F of paper H74), be tested through the Members' Seminar on 5 August, and that these views be fed back to an additional meeting of the Committee on 14 August.
- 5.5 The Committee also noted that PLG had requested that their informal views on a possible boundary modification be shared with Town and Parish Councils at

meetings on 14 and 17 July (paragraph 5.20 of paper H74) and that responses to that possible approach had been invited from the Town and Parish Councils, together with views on the substantive draft proposals of the Boundary Committee.

Members' Seminar 5 August

- 5.6 At this seminar, a presentation provided Members with a summary of the draft proposal for Suffolk by the Boundary Committee, together with the Boundary Committee's rationale for proposing an Ipswich/Felixstowe (or North Haven) unitary and a unitary for the remainder of rural Suffolk, with Lowestoft being administered within a Norfolk unitary. The key issues on which the Boundary Committee is inviting views were outlined. These included
- Political management structures for the proposed new unitary councils
 - Possible neighbourhood empowerment arrangements and, in particular, the merits in the rural Suffolk unitary of Community Boards, as set out in Suffolk County Council's initial "One Suffolk" concept, and in the North Haven unitary of Area Committees, as set out in Ipswich Borough Council's proposals for unitary arrangements in Ipswich.
 - How service delivery could be most effectively provided in the "rural Suffolk" unitary with its large geographic area and dispersed rural communities
 - The impact of the prospective removal of Ipswich, Felixstowe and Lowestoft on the rural Suffolk unitary
 - The proposed boundary of the North Haven unitary area
- 5.7 Members were advised that the Boundary Committee considered that an arrangement providing for a single unitary council for Suffolk (again excluding Lowestoft) also had some merit. Whilst the Boundary Committee was not yet persuaded that this arrangement would meet the Secretary of State's five criteria as well as its own draft proposal would, consultees were nonetheless invited to bear this arrangement in mind when sending comments to the Boundary Committee.
- 5.8 Specific issues for both Members and staff arising from the review were also highlighted.
- 5.9 Members were advised of the governance arrangements that would apply in working up the business case, including affordability assessments, for each of the prospective unitary councils in Suffolk. These arrangements provided for a politically representative balance on Member Programme Boards for the prospective North Haven, Rural Suffolk and Single Suffolk unitaries. The key assumptions that were being made by each of these Boards to underpin the business case development were also outlined. It was noted that the Lowestoft issues were being considered within equivalent governance arrangements in Norfolk.
- 5.10 Members then considered the Boundary Committee's proposals, and how well these reflected Babergh's own views as expressed in the April 2008 submission

to the Boundary Committee at the concept formulation stage. They specifically addressed the question of whether a modification to the proposed North Haven boundary should be promoted with the Boundary Committee and, if so, the evidential basis of that argument.

- 5.11 Feedback from the Members' Seminar on 5 August indicated mixed views between the draft proposal of the Boundary Committee and the possible single unitary option. However, a majority of Members present felt that the Boundary Committee's draft proposal for two unitary councils in Suffolk was their preferred option. Of those Members expressing a preference for that option, a majority also supported the principle of making an evidence-based case for moving the boundary of the North Haven unitary within the Babergh area further west to take in Hadleigh and its neighbouring parishes, acknowledging that the precise boundary that might ultimately be proposed to the Boundary Committee would still be the subject of further consideration and debate. There was no support for an extension of the North Haven boundary as far west as the current LSP boundaries.
- 5.12 It was, however, noted that Hadleigh Town Council had called an Extraordinary Town Council meeting for 13 August, to which neighbouring Parish Council representatives as well as the general public had been invited. Members therefore acknowledged that discussion on this boundary issue at Strategy Committee on 14 August would also be informed by feedback from that Town Council meeting, as well as from any further feedback from other Town and Parish Councils and stakeholders.
- 5.13 Members felt that the indicative boundaries of Area Committees and Community Boards needed further consideration, and undertook to feed their views on these to officers as soon as possible. Any feedback from Members on these and any other aspect of the review will be reported verbally at the meeting.
- 5.14 There was support at the Members' Seminar for inviting further stakeholder comments on Babergh's draft consultation response after Strategy Committee on 14 August. There was also support for calling an Extraordinary Meeting of Council to finalise Babergh's response as close as possible to the consultation deadline of 26 September, but in any event after the deadline of 12 September for completion of the affordability assessments of each of the prospective unitary councils. An Extraordinary Meeting of Council has now been arranged for 23 September.

Town & Parish Councils and SAVO

- 5.15 At the time of preparing this paper, responses are, understandably, still awaited from the majority of Town and Parish Councils. However, responses (some still themselves in draft or provisional form) have been received from the Town/Parish Councils listed below, and these are included at Appendix (a):
- Kersey PC (letter dated 25 July 2008)
 - Kettlebaston PC (e-mail dated 25 July 2008)
 - Shotley PC (letter dated 29 July 2008)

- Sudbury Town Council (letter dated 29 July 2008)
- Burstall PC (e-mail dated 30 July 2008)
- Capel St Mary (letter dated 1 August 2008)
- Assington PC (e-mail dated 2 August 2008)
- Layham PC (letter dated 2 August 2008)
- Elmsett PC (letter dated 4 August 2008)
- Polstead PC (letter dated 4 August 2008)

In addition to Town and Parish Council responses, a response (also included at Appendix (a), has been received from the Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations (SAVO) in an e-mail dated 23 July 2008.

5.16 From the correspondence at Appendix (a), it is already clear that there are varying views on the issues raised by this review, but it is too early to say at this stage what the overall balance of opinion will be amongst our stakeholders in general, and our Town & Parish Councils in particular.

6. **APPENDICES**

- (a) Copies of correspondence (e-mails and letters) received from Town and Parish Councils and SAVO

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

Babergh DC Concept Submission to the Boundary Committee – April 2008

The Boundary Committee's Draft Proposals for Unitary Local Government in Norfolk and Suffolk – July 2008

Members' Seminar 5 August – Presentation Material

CONTACT: Pat Rockall, Chief Executive Email: pat.rockall@babergh.gov.uk

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KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Tel: 01787 210859

Mrs P Rockall
Chief Executive
Babergh District Council
Corks Lane
Hadleigh
Ipswich
IP7 6SJ

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE
File No:
25 JUL 2008
To
For Attn/Info/Observations

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Partridge

**Bridges Farm
The Tye
Kersey
Ipswich
Suffolk IP7 6HB**

25 July 2008

Dear Mrs Rockall

Please find attached the draft response to the Structural Review for Suffolk from Kersey Parish Council. The Parish Council will be finalising their response to the Boundary Committee at a meeting on 15 September. I will write to you again in September with a copy of our final response to this important consultation.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Partridge
Clerk to Kersey Parish Council

KERSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Tel: 01787 210859

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Partridge
Bridges Farm
The Tye
Kersey
Ipswich
Suffolk IP7 6HB

25 July 2008

The Review Officer
(Norfolk/Suffolk) Review
The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
LONDON SW1P 2HW

Dear Sirs

Re: Structural Review for Suffolk

Having carefully considered the Boundary Committee's options for the future structure of local government in Suffolk, Kersey Parish Council favours a single unitary authority for Suffolk.

We oppose the idea of two unitary authorities consisting of Ipswich and Felixstowe and surrounding parishes on the one hand and the rest of rural Suffolk on the other for the following reasons:

- We fear the economic consequences of a 'two speed' Suffolk, which could see major investment in the Ipswich/Felixstowe unitary at the expense of rural Suffolk.
- If the Boundary Committee was to go ahead with the two unitary model, 'council tax revenue per square kilometre' would be heavily biased towards the Ipswich/Felixstowe unitary. This would leave the remainder of Suffolk a more sparse community where services would be spread out more with less money to deliver the same level of services as a densely populated area with a higher revenue stream.
- Further, we believe the uncoupling of vital services currently focused on Ipswich could have a highly detrimental effect, particularly on social services and care of the elderly.
- In addition, we suspect that the economic status endowed on Ipswich/Felixstowe could lead to a spate of unconstrained development in the whole region, including the rural areas included within the unitary authority.
- We believe also that the division of all the services currently offered by Suffolk County Council between the two unitary authorities would be expensive and difficult to organise.

However, we do understand that a unitary authority will be necessary to achieve savings in local government costs in future.

Yours sincerely,

Kersey Parish Council

Betchley, Amanda

From: Parish Clerk [parishclerk@gmail.com]
Sent: 25 July 2008 08:39
To: Rockall, Pat
Subject: Boundary Committee Review

Dear Mrs Rockall

I am writing to let you know that the Kettlebaston Parish Council will not be meeting to discuss the Boundary Committee Review until after your deadline for comments. I will write to you with our decision following our meeting of August 13th.

Best regards

Tasia Kavvadias
Kettlebaston Parish Clerk/Councillor

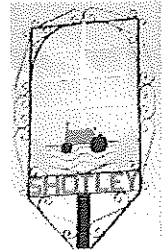
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SHOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr R Wrinch, Hill House, Wades Lane, Shotley, Ipswich IP9 1EW

Please address all correspondence to the clerk:

Linda Rowlands
33 Orwell View Road, Shotley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 1NW
Tel: 01473 788248 Email: shotleypc@btinternet.com
www.myshotley.com

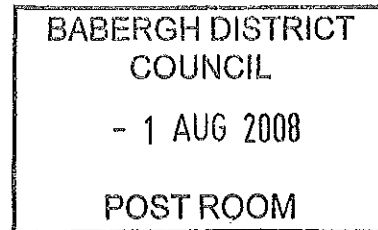


Pat Rockall
Chief Executive
Babergh District Council
Corks lane
Hadleigh
Ipswich IP7 6SJ

29 July 2008

Your ref:

Our Ref:



Dear Ms Rockall

BOUNDARY COMMITTEE REVIEW

I write further to the briefing meeting on 14 July at Hintlesham, which I found to be very informative and write to you now with Shotley Parish Council's preliminary views.

Following a meeting of Shotley Parish Council on 17 July, I would advise that the Councillors' feel Shotley would be better served by the preferred option of a two unitary set up for Suffolk. They agreed with your suggestion that the Ipswich UA be expanded on its western boundary to encompass certainly Hadleigh so as to balance out the "rural" and "urban" population. It was felt that residents of Shotley identified more closely with Ipswich as it is used by them for their social, shopping and educational needs and also provided many with employment. It was assumed that Ipswich would be the administration centre and that this would be more beneficial to the Peninsula because of its proximity.

I have contacted your department today to advise that we are holding a public consultation meeting on 4 September at 7.30pm at our Village Hall (Large Committee Room – door to the left of the Hall) in order to inform/consult with the residents of Shotley. We have also invited representatives from Ipswich Borough Council and Suffolk County Council to come and speak to us. We would welcome a representative from Babergh should you feel it appropriate for someone to attend.

Yours sincerely

Linda Rowlands
Parish Clerk

TOWN OF SUDBURY

MRS. S.M. BROTHERWOOD

TOWN CLERK

F/3/SMB/IGC

MY REF

YOUR REF

COUNCIL OFFICES
TOWN HALL
SUDBURY, SUFFOLK
CO10 1TL



BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

File Ref.....

31 JUL 2008

To

For Attn/Info/Observations

TEL: (01787) 372331

FAX & ANSWERPHONE: (01787) 311642

EMAIL: townclerk@sudburytowncouncil.co.uk

www.sudburytowncouncil.co.uk

Review Manager
(Norfolk/Suffolk Review)
The Boundary Committee
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
LONDON
SW1P 2HW

29th July 2008

Dear Sir

Re: Draft Proposals for Unitary Local Government in Suffolk

The draft proposals published by yourselves on 7th July 2008 were debated at an extraordinary meeting of Sudbury Town Council held on Tuesday 22nd July 2008. Although there was discussion of the possible merits of single versus split unitary authorities, members noted that the Boundary Committee is formally consulting on only one proposal for Suffolk. However, it is noteworthy that cost comparisons between this proposal and a single unitary authority will not be available before the consultation period ends.

It is understood that the rationale behind the committee's proposal for the North Haven unitary authority is that potentially large future economic growth concentrated in the Ipswich and Felixstowe area means that it is logical for one authority to have responsibility for that region. Although the resolutions passed by council at its meeting included broad support for the creation of two unitary authorities for Suffolk, it was felt that this should be on a more evenly split geographical basis than proposed as members felt that an authority for rural Suffolk, and/or one for the entire county, would prove too unwieldy to administer.

However, Sudbury Town Council recognises that the most important point for town and parish councils is the strength of local arrangements that are ultimately made with a new unitary authority and that good local arrangements should be achievable regardless of which unitary option is ultimately implemented. It was noted that any local arrangements could not be confirmed until a new unitary authority assumes its responsibilities and decides its *modus operandi*. I have recently applied for reaccreditation of Sudbury Town Council as a Quality Parish; this was done at the earliest opportunity following the receipt of revised guidelines from the National Association of Local Councils. Sudbury Town Council was the first council in Suffolk to achieve Quality Parish Status when it was first accredited in 2004.

At the extraordinary council meeting members noted some examples of functions that could be delegated to accredited town and parish councils by any unitary authority. These include some that Sudbury Town Council already carry out such as control of markets, some litter collection and control, some street lighting, street naming, issuance of transport passes and the management of public conveniences. However, it is possible to delegate many other functions including maintenance of pavements, footpaths and verges, parking restrictions, some aspects of the planning process and taxi and public entertainment licensing. Locally, there must be potential for the delegation of other functions

such as the management of Sudbury's Belle Vue Park and the town's play areas. Sudbury Town Council may wish to apply for any of the aforementioned powers to be delegated to it by a new unitary authority.

Sudbury Town Council would wish to continue its current partnership and agency working arrangements with any new unitary authority. These would include its Community Warden programme, currently operated as a partnership with Babergh District Council and Chilton and Great Cornard Parish Councils, management of public conveniences and the extensive services provided by the Sudbury Advice Centre, where the town council acts as partner to, and agent for, the district and county councils. However, the town council recognises that the introduction of future local arrangements needs to be staged as some town and parish councils may be more willing or able to assume increased powers than others

Sudbury Town Council also notes the potential for participation in area forums and/or committees, and it envisages being an enthusiastic and committed member of such a forum which might involve several other parishes in the town's hinterland. However, at the extraordinary council meeting members expressed concern that, whilst professional advice may be sought on various matters by any area forum or committee, it is important that elected members determine how budgets are spent in order to prevent the creation of a democratic deficit such as has existed within various decision making partnerships in the locality.

Finally, Sudbury Town Council is concerned about the potential ratio of councillors to residents in any new unitary authority; it has been suggested that this would be in the region of 1:5000 versus approximately 1:1800 with the present structure of district and county councils; the council feels that voters would be partly disenfranchised by this.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above to be the formal response of Sudbury Town Council to the Boundary Committee consultation.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S M Brotherwood
Town Clerk

cc: The Chief Executives of Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council; Parish Clerks of Acton, Chilton, Great Cornard, Great Waldingfield, Little Waldingfield, Long Melford Parish Councils.

Toth, Helen

From: John Runnacles [jonah.461@virgin.net]
Sent: 30 July 2008 22:15
To: Rockall, Pat
Cc: Nick Ridley; Laptop@cdmail.co.uk
Subject: Boundary Committee Review

Dear Mrs. Rockall,

Burstall Parish Council looked at the proposals presented by the Boundary Committee at their meeting on 21 July 2008.

Our initial response is guided by a perceived need to retain education authority boundaries, in particular existing school catchment areas.

The new boundary for the proposed expanded Ipswich seems to have been drawn with no consideration for the present school catchment area presently occupied by Burstall.

Our Primary School children go to Sproughton, and our secondary school children go to Claydon, both of which are inside the proposed new Ipswich unitary authority, whereas Burstall is shown as outside.

This being the case, the immediate reaction of Burstall Parish Council would be to request that Burstall is included with Sproughton and Claydon parishes, and their ruling education authority, in whatever fate becomes them out of the review.

This could point to a preference for the "One-Suffolk" outcome, except that there is, too, for Burstall, identification more with Ipswich from the point of view of employment, and in our approach to shopping and leisure activities. Public transport would be an issue in both cases, and we foresee opportunity for improvement, here, if we become part of a "Greater Ipswich".

All in all, the present preference of Burstall Parish Council is drawn in the direction of support for the two unitary authorities proposed by the Boundary Committee, provided that the boundary is redrawn to include Burstall with Sproughton and Claydon, inside "Ipswich".

Of course, should a convincing case be made for the boundary to be extended to include Hadleigh in the Ipswich unitary authority, Burstall would wish to be taken with Hadleigh into the new Ipswich unitary authority.

We hope that this helps you in formulating the response of Babergh District Council to the Boundary Committee proposals.

With best regards,

John Runnacles
Clerk to Burstall Parish Council

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31/07/2008

Capel St Mary

Clerk: Mrs Julie Lawes

Tel Fax: 01473 314103

e mail: capel.pariahclerk@btinternet.com



Parish Council

Chairman: Mr Stuart Harris

Tel: 01473 311067

web site: www.capelstmary.org.uk

27a The Street, Capel St Mary, Ipswich IP9 2EE



Babergh District Council

Corks Lane

Hadleigh

Ipswich

Suffolk

IP7 6SJ

Friday 1st August 2008

BOUNDARY COMMITTEE PROPOSALS

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing following the proposal made by the Boundary Committee regarding the Unitary Authority. The members of the Capel St Mary Parish Council have many different views on this proposal and so to give you some idea of the direction we are currently heading I have included some comments from councillors.

My concerns are regarding the dislocation of education, Police and fire services in the two unitary model arrangements. Where a single authority could better manage the dissimilar needs for rural and urban policing, the different expenses of providing a joined up attitude to roads maintenance policy when our major roads form the boundary to these areas. The funding requirements of a rural fire service and the differing cost of rural primary schools and of centralised further education. It is for these reasons that I recommend that the Parish Council replies in support of a single unitary authority with or without Lowestoft as opposed to any alternative.

Stuart Harris, Chairman of the Capel St Mary Parish Council

To split Babergh between the "North Haven" and "Rest of Suffolk" UA's with Capel one way and the Wenham's another could be described as illogical at best, and would seem to question the application of area selection on the basis of the populations "sense of place". However I don't know that the Boundary Commission are open to receiving "other" solutions, including the original Babergh suggestion which did not make it past round one.

If we are faced with the choice of the lesser of two evils (which is a sadly negative way to look at change) then I would view that a single Suffolk UA (with or without Lowestoft) could better manage the overall area requirements (Education / Police / Fire Services). I also believe we should raise significant concerns with regard to the "Neighbourhood Forums / Area Assemblies". These may be no more (or less) than a forum for public meetings where topical issues arise. We should clarify who would "run" these forums/assemblies.

Final comment on costs I understand the principle is that any costs incurred in the proposed changes must be recovered through resultant efficiencies delivered by the new structure within 5 years. Are there detailed costings in place, Do they bear up to scrutiny, who will be accountable if the "payback" cost savings are not delivered in the 5 year time frame.

Derek O'Galligan, Vice-Chairman

Although I feel that we are being railroaded, there seems to be some merits in the North Haven concept. If the present Babergh, from Hadleigh to Shotley, is included in an expanded Ipswich with Felixstowe, there would be a reasonable urban/rural balance. However, this does leave a vast area for the rest of Suffolk so perhaps Babergh's original proposal for two Unitary Authorities might be the most workable. **John Sturgeon, Parish Councillor**

What does concern me, as has been raised, is the operation of the forum which is a public forum. I don't see how parish councils come into this. The same applies to the neighbourhood empowerment/assemblies promoted by SCC. Nobody appears to enlighten us on this. The involvement of parish councils, which is supposed to support the development of district councils, has not been explained fully. **Gerald White, Parish Councillor**

The issue of splitting Babergh needs to be 'ironed out' and further information is needed about the forums. I do not believe that costs will be recovered over five years but who will check and what can be done about it five years down the line. This proposal actually can be compared with Education in Suffolk at present with the three areas being controlled by offices in Ipswich, Bury and Lowestoft. However the funding of rural schools will be an issue. **Christine Matthews, Parish Councillor**

Those were a sample of the views received from our parish council. There is a running theme for concerns over the rural areas not receiving adequate support either financially or practically and fears of resources being swallowed up by the larger areas. There is some doubt over the area split and it is thought this does need to be reviewed.

I hope this information helps you to see the kinds of questions being raised and the direction we as a Parish Council are heading.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Julie Lawes
Clerk to Capel St Mary Parish Council

Betchley, Amanda

From: Dave Crimmin [assingtonpc@btinternet.com]
Sent: 02 August 2008 11:25
To: reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk
Cc: Rockall, Pat; Jenkins, Jennifer (Member)
Subject: Draft Proposals for unitary local government in Suffolk

Dear Sir

Following a review of your proposals and a presentation by Babergh District Council, Assington Parish Council's initial views are as follows:

- there is a lack of information available on the proposals which make a review by our Parish Council extremely difficult
- the short timeframe for the unitary review means that financial information on the proposal is not available at this stage, so how can APC judge the impact on our resident, the council tax payer?

Based on the information reviewed to date APC consider:

- a single unitary option as being the best option for Suffolk
- that should the two unitary option be implemented, then APC should not be part of the Ipswich & Felixstowe unitary.

APC plans to attend the Suffolk County Council and Boundary Committee presentations in the next month before giving its final response ahead of the 26th September deadline.

Regards

Dave Crimmin

Clerk, Assington Parish Council

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Betchley, Amanda

From: Jonathan Moore [Jonathan.Moore@savo.co.uk]
Sent: 23 July 2008 15:18
To: Alex.hopkins@policy.suffolkcc.gov.uk; Alison Archbold/Young Suffolk; Alison Wheeler; Good, Andrew (Mid-Suffolk DC C/Exec); aandn@btinternet.com; Andy Yacoub; ann.hunter@performance.suffolkcc.gov.uk; Ben Matthews; bill.smith@whsmithnet.co.uk; Bruce Macgregor (Bruce MacGregor); Carole Taylor-Brown; tony@focus12.co.uk; christine@saxontherapy.co.uk; Harvey, Clair (SCC); ClareEuston@euston-estate.co.uk; cwitcombe.go-east@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk; Colin Moore; daphne.savage@ageconcernsuffolk.org.uk; vcentre@lineone.net; Elizabeth Aldous; FMIAH7@hotmail.com; graham.gatehouse@socserv.suffolkcc.gov.uk; halford@ihag.freeseve.co.uk; havo@dsl.pipex.com; hazel.mackintosh9@suffolkbroadband.net; Iain Dunnett (Iain Dunnett); ian.b.hartley@gmail.com; ila@menter.org.uk; info@icrfm.co.uk; jane.midwood@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk; Janet Bloomfield; Jeremy.Schofield@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk; jefinn8365@yahoo.co.uk; Joanna Spicer; John Dugmore; John O'Sullivan; Judy.Rainer@socserv.suffolkcc.gov.uk; Kathleen Ben Rabha; linda.hoggarth@rethink-disability.org.uk; Marion Rennison; Mark Ereira; mohammed.alam@bscentre.org.uk; Rockall, Pat; Rachel.Thompson@policy.suffolkcc.gov.uk; Lefort, Rebecca; RICHARD CATHERALL; Shirley Whitwood; Stephen Watt; Stephen Singleton; steve.allman@oaa.co.uk; Stott Sharon (5PT) Suffolk PCT
Subject: Boundary Committee

Dear Colleague

At SAVO's Trustee Board meeting today (23rd July 2008), SAVO agreed to support the option for a single Suffolk Unitary Authority.

Of the two options on the Table, this was seen as best serving the needs of the people of Suffolk and the Voluntary and Community Organisations serving them. We will be preparing our submission for the September deadline.

Key points noted included: a Suffolk Unitary best provided for equality of opportunity and access to services; it provided a better balance between the rural and urban demands on Local Government; the proposed localization of key community decision making was an important feature - especially the engagement of VCS groups; With 80% of services provided by the current County Council - better continuity of planning, commissioning, grant-giving and services would be maintained in the transition process - and that the savings of running a single Unitary authority would enable greater investment in frontline services.

The Board supported Lowestoft being retained as part of Suffolk, but wanted further views from local organisations to ensure this reflected the local VCS perspective.

If, in the end, a two Unitary Authorities approach were adopted, SAVO

would work with partners to ensure VCS formed a key part of the planning and decision-making.

SAVO will work with partner organisations to examine the best ways to support the Voluntary and Community Sector and consider changes that will help improve available services.

We are interested in receiving your views on Local Government changes. Please contact either myself or Laura Hack, SAVO's Partnership Manager (but note that holidays etc mean we will not be able to get back to you for a couple of weeks)

Kind regards
Jonathan

Jonathan Moore

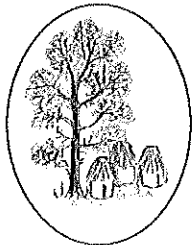
Chief Executive, Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations

Charity registration: 1091039, A company limited by guarantee, registered in England, Company Number: 4354379

Registered Office: Dickson House, 43a Woodbridge Road East, Ipswich Suffolk IP4 5QN

Tel: 01473 273273

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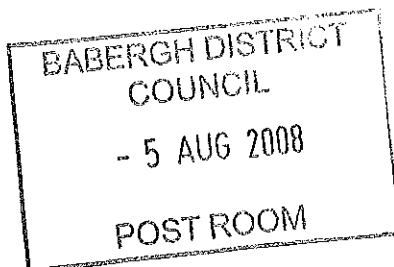
Elmsett Parish Council

Clerk: Andrea Newman
Telephone: 01473 658738

Moat Farm Hadleigh Road Elmsett IPSWICH Suffolk IP7 6ND
email: clerk@elmsett.suffolk.gov.uk

4 August 2008

Ms P Rockall
Chief Executive
Babergh District Council
Corks Lane
Hadleigh
IP7 6SJ



Dear Ms Rockall

Local Government Review

Elmsett Parish Council met to discuss the above. It was considered that the residents of Elmsett would be best served by the adoption of the Boundary Committee's second option of a One Unitary Suffolk. We consider that the two unitary model is not the best for Suffolk as a whole as it is likely to be more costly overall and if Suffolk is split into two unitary authorities the rural Suffolk unitary may struggle financially.

We would however reserve our final view until all the local authority meetings within the area have met and all other views taken into consideration, including, importantly, the SALC meeting with the Boundary Committee on the 1st September.

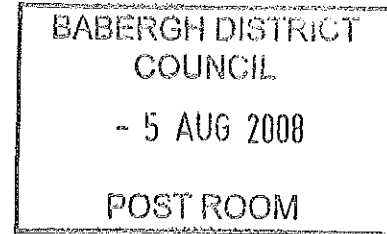
However, if the two unitary authority model is adopted we have noted that Babergh is considering a proposal for Hadleigh and surrounding parishes to join the Ipswich and Felixstowe unitary. We can see no merit in Hadleigh and the surrounding villages being joined to the Felixstowe and Ipswich unitary authority as again we see this being to the detriment of the wider Suffolk rural unitary. Moreover, please be aware that we would strongly resist Elmsett being included in such a proposal as we would prefer to remain within a largely rural authority, where we feel our needs would be better understood and less likely to be marginalized.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Newman
Clerk

**Layham Parish Council
Walnuts
Upper Layham
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP7 5JX**

**Mrs Patricia Rockall
Chief Executive
Babergh District Council
Bridge Street
Hadleigh
Ipswich
Suffolk**



2nd August 2008

Dear Mrs Rockall

Re Boundary Committee Review

Further to a meeting of Layham Parish Council we would like to make the following observations regarding the proposed changes to Council boundaries within Suffolk.

The majority of Councillors were in favour of a single Suffolk Unitary Authority, although they were some what concerned regarding the size of the Authority and the accessibility to services from some areas of Suffolk. Such an Authority would require out stations in the market towns that could incur extra costs. Generally however it was thought that this option would be the most cost effective regarding the amalgamation of council services.

When considering the second option, Suffolk and The North Havens Unitary Authorities it was thought by the majority of the councillors that it would be beneficial for the boundary of The North Havens to be extended to encompass Hadleigh (and Layham). We have many links to Ipswich, most people in our area work there, our schools will be linked with the proposed SWISS Centre, it is felt this will be a 'boom' area with more access to funding. However there is concern with this option in that smaller parishes may lose their identity and become dominated by the larger towns of Ipswich and Felixstowe.

I hope these comments may be of help when making your decisions.

Yours sincerely

**Jane Gales
Chairman Layham Parish Council**

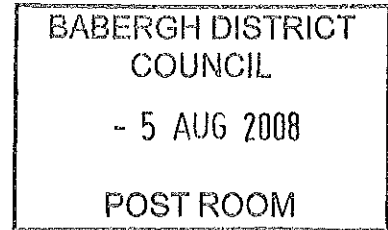
POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Gray Gables Cottage • 2 Stone Street Road • Boxford • SUDBURY • CO10 5NP

4 August, 2008

Patricia Rockall BA (hons) MCIH

Chief Executive
Babergh District Council
Corks Lane
Hadleigh
Ipswich
IP7 6SJ



Dear Patricia,

Please find attached the comments of Polstead Parish Council regarding the Draft Proposals for Unitary Local Government in Suffolk.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Gray
Clerk to Polstead Parish Council

POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Comments of Polstead Parish Council regarding the Draft Proposals for Unitary Local Government in Suffolk

Before turning to the immediate topic, Polstead Parish Council thinks it appropriate to express regret at the impending demise of Babergh District Council. It is unlikely that we have always seen eye to eye but advice and support has unfailingly been forthcoming. Moreover, it is an authority that has been run efficiently and with enthusiasm and we are grateful. Indeed some of the more cynical among us have some serious reservations as to whether the planned changes will necessarily bring the supposed benefits.

However, this is not an issue on which our views are, or have ever been, sought. Accordingly:

- a) Our preference is for the division between an Ipswich and Felixstowe Unitary Authority and a Suffolk Unitary Authority, with Polstead falling well within the latter as set out in map B5. Rationalising what otherwise might appear an instinctive reaction, it seems to us that the urban, industrial and commercial area which comprises of Ipswich and its surrounds, has virtually nothing in common with our entirely rural community. Inevitably our interests would be subordinated to its.
- b) We reject the notion of a Single Unitary Authority as shown in Map B6. It is too large and again would be Ipswich dominated.
- c) Some of our number feel that the proposal of the division particularly in relation to the area west of the Ipswich and Felixstowe Unitary Authority is still too large and would benefit from subdivision.
- d) We note that Babergh propose an alternative boundary which would essentially extend the Ipswich Unitary Authority westwards so as to embrace Hadleigh and the parishes to its west, but falling short of Nedging-with-Naughton, Semer, Kersey, Polstead and Stoke-by-Nayland. We have no strong views on this proposal save for the following matters.
 - Polstead at present forms part of a ward with Layham, Shelley, Higham and Raydon all of which is within Babergh's proposed extension. This would obviously be extremely uncomfortable for Polstead and redefining the ward so that we fell in with, say, Stoke-by-Nayland would be essential.

- For educational reasons such a re-alignment would be highly desirable in any event. The pupils of Polstead live in the catchment area of Stoke by Nayland, Cornard and Sudbury. Layham etc look to Hadleigh and eastwards.
- e) Finally and not strictly within the remit of this response there is much talk of “local involvement”, “grass roots participation” and, more specifically, “Area Committees”. At present the discussion seems ill defined and lacking in content. We think it important to lay down a marker now.

Any organisation subordinate to the new local authority will need to have its powers and duties carefully defined. All bar one of this Parish Council work full-time. The desire to take on additional responsibilities and give up more free time is distinctly limited.

Sandra Gray Clerk to the Council
Gray Gables Cottage 2 Stone Street Road
Boxford Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5NP
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