



NORFOLK POLICE AUTHORITY

Ensuring an Efficient and Effective Police Service

Reply to: Stephen Bett

Our Ref: SB/KG

Direct Dial: 01953 424455

13th May 2009

Mr William Morrison
Review Officer
The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London
SW1P 2HW

Dear Mr Morrison

Thank you for your letter dated 19th March 2009, providing the Authority with the opportunity to comment on the Boundary Committee's further draft proposals on unitary local government for Norfolk and Suffolk.

As stated in the Authority's previous communications to the Boundary Committee on this topic, dated 11th April 2008 and 17th September 2008, we are pro-unitary, with a single unitary council for Norfolk being the strongly preferred option. That position is principally based upon the significant benefits we would see arise in terms of partnership working, and in having a single strategic driver and decision-maker for the county of Norfolk as a whole. That position is also predicated on the basis that if the two unitary options were to be implemented, there would be very significant concern regarding the division of current countywide services, e.g. Education, Social Services, Trading Standards, and Fire & Rescue etc, which have significant inter-action with the police service.

My Authority is concerned about the instability of the financial modelling consequences of the two unitary options. On balance, the facts point towards the overall viability of the single unitary option as compared with the two council option: in our experience of collaboration between Forces, to rely upon altruism between the two new unitary councils to balance out funding is totally unrealistic.

Continued overleaf

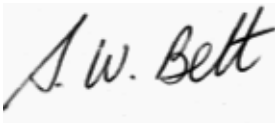


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In conclusion, whilst my Authority supports the proposal for a single unitary authority for Norfolk, we will of course work to whichever recommendation the Boundary Committee Commission makes and the Secretary of State ultimately decides upon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. W. Bett". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular background.

Stephen Bett
Chairman
Norfolk Police Authority



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