

5 December 2007

Chief Executive
Sedgefield Borough Council
Wear Valley District Council
Easington District Council
Derwentside District Council
Teesdale District Council
Chester-le-Street District Council

BY EMAIL

Dear Chief Executive,

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE UNITARY STRUCTURES

I write further to my letter of 27 March 2007, in which I explained that the Secretary of State decided that your council's unitary proposal, submitted in response to our Invitation to councils in England on 26 October 2006, would not be proceeding to stakeholder consultation.

I am now writing to inform you that, having had regard to all the relevant information available, the Secretary of State has confirmed her judgement of 27 March that there is not a reasonable likelihood that, if implemented, your proposal would achieve the outcomes specified by all the five criteria set out in the Invitation to councils issued on 26 October 2006. Accordingly she has decided under section 7(1)(c) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to take no action in relation to your proposal.

I am enclosing a copy of the decision letter which I have today sent to Durham County Council in response to their proposal for a single unitary council for County Durham.

P Rowsell
Deputy Director Local Democracy
Department for Communities and Local Government
5/E8 Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
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You will see that on the basis of the information presented to us we are satisfied that the proposal meets the five criteria set out in our Invitation to Councils in England issued on 26 October 2006. Accordingly the Secretary of State intends to implement the County Council's proposal by order made under section 7 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

If you have any queries about the substance of the decision you should write in the first instance to Ian Barber at ian.barber@communities.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

P Rowsell