

5 December 2007

Chief Executive  
Northumberland County Council

Our Ref:  
Your Ref:

BY EMAIL

*Dear Chief Executive,*

## **PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE UNITARY STRUCTURES**

In response to the Invitation to councils in England issued by the Secretary of State on 26 October 2006, your council submitted a proposal for future unitary structures before the 25 January deadline. I wrote to you on 8 February 2007 informing you that your council's proposal conformed to the terms of the Invitation, and on 27 March 2007 informing you that your proposal, together with the further information that you provided to explain and clarify it, would be proceeding to stakeholder consultation.

On 25 July 2007, I wrote to inform you that, in the Secretary of State's judgement, there was a reasonable likelihood that, if implemented, the proposal would meet the outcomes specified by each of the criteria set out in the Invitation, and that consequently she was minded to implement it, once the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill was enacted.

The Secretary of State has given due consideration to the further representations received in relation to your proposal since July, and has concluded that they contain no new and substantive evidence to affect her decision.

I am now writing to inform you that, having had due regard to all the relevant information available, the Secretary of State has confirmed her “minded to” decision of 25 July 2007 that there is a reasonable likelihood that, if implemented, your proposal would meet the outcomes specified by each of the criteria set out in the Invitation, and she accordingly intends to implement your 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.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ian.barber@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

*Yours sincerely,*

**P Rowsell**