

5 December 2007

Chief Executive
Norwich City 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 on 25 January 2007 a proposal for future unitary structures. 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.

I am now writing to inform you that the Secretary of State has confirmed her decision of 25 July 2007, that in her judgement, there is not a reasonable likelihood that, if implemented, the proposal as submitted, would meet the criteria set out in the invitation. Consequently, she is minded at present not to implement your proposal, has decided to request the Boundary Committee to advise on your proposal, in accordance with Section 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Secretary of State intends to specify in her request that the matters on which the Committee's advice is sought include whether, for the area affected, the City and the county area, there could be alternative unitary solutions,

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involving boundary changes, which would meet the five criteria set out in the Invitation. The Secretary of State further intends, in guidance to the Boundary Committee, to highlight the possibility that any alternative unitary solutions may cross the existing Norfolk/Suffolk county boundary.

If you have any queries about the substance of the decision you should write in the first instance to Leigh Bura at [Leigh Bura@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Leigh.Bura@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

P Rowsell