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Review Manager
(Suffolk Review)
The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London
SW1P 2HW

14th May 2009

Dear Sir

Ipswich Borough Council's response to the March 2009 further draft proposals

Please find enclosed Ipswich's response to your further draft proposals which supplements earlier submissions we have made.

Ipswich is working hard as a Council to ensure the continued prosperity and growth of the town. This focus has enabled us to "fight back" successfully against the current recession including masterminding the £1 billion regeneration of Ipswich's waterfront and establishing England's newest university.

The Boundary Committee's latest proposals for unitary status for urban areas, which we welcome, will ensure that this focus and strong strategic leadership continues to the benefit of these communities, their wider regions and the country as a whole.

Ipswich and Felixstowe are a true city region that can make an even greater economic impact by having a unitary council with strong local community leadership.

We strongly oppose the unpalatable alternative of including urban areas; with their proud histories of active civic leadership; within large, remote and predominantly rural county authorities. This will dissipate the focus we have enjoyed for hundreds of years and see directly elected institutions replaced by unelected "community boards" with few powers and little influence.

Without focused urban governance Ipswich will not have the civic leadership necessary to compete with the city regions emerging within the UK let alone those in Europe and beyond

I am pleased to say that a number of key organisations and local residents agree with this and continue to give a broad cross section of support for a unitary authority based on Ipswich.

The following statement was adopted as part of the current consultation by the listed organisations:

“Ipswich is rightly proud of its history as the oldest continuously inhabited Anglo-Saxon town with a Royal Charter dating from 1200. As Ipswich rapidly grows it is extremely important that it continues to have a strong council able to focus on representing the needs of its residents, businesses and community groups. We, the undersigned organisations, who have played a key part in making Ipswich what it is, call upon the Government to make sure that any new unitary structure is small enough to focus on the needs of Ipswich and able to provide a strong voice locally, regionally and nationally for the future”.

Signatories:

Ipswich Society

Ipswich Building Society

Ipswich Council for Voluntary Services (ICVS)

Team Ipswich

Suffolk New College

Honorary Recorder

Ipswich Port (ABP)

Ipswich Buses

Ipswich Town Football Club

Ipswich School

Mayor of Ipswich

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

James Hehir
Chief Executive