



shaping the future of local government in Suffolk

'New councils will bring prosperity
- less bureaucracy, more local decisions'



Partnership of prosperity

A new unitary council in our area will be a “partnership of prosperity”, bringing big cash savings and more local decision-making.

The independent Boundary Committee for England has looked at the future of local government in Suffolk.

It has announced only one preferred option:

Creating TWO unitary councils in the county which would run all local government services. This will get rid of eight chief executives and sets of senior bureaucrats, replacing them by two.

This would see a new council in south Suffolk, linking the Ipswich and Felixstowe areas, sitting alongside a rural Suffolk council.

This will be an effective and powerful partnership - it will not be a takeover by Ipswich nor by anyone else. The Boundary Committee has asked Ipswich Borough Council to join a partnership to look at how best to deliver the cost-effective and quality services we all want.

Communities will have more say

These services will not be delivered by Ipswich Borough Council but by a brand new council, a council we elect. Those new councillors will live and work in our own communities. We will not be told what to do by someone who runs things up to 50 miles away.

We believe this will be a council for the 21st Century, as well as one that is rooted in a long and proud shared history. We will remain part of Suffolk but we will also be truly local and better able to meet individual needs.

Cutting waste

This key part of Suffolk, the northern part of the Haven Gateway sub-region, is recognised by the Government as an area that can become a powerful driver for economic prosperity. The new North Haven council will bring jobs and investment while at the same time cutting duplication and waste and strengthening local democracy.

www.unitarynews.com

“Giant councils don't work and cannot meet local needs.”

An equal voice

Let us scotch the myth that we will be swallowed up by Ipswich. We won't be! Around half of the new council will consist of people who don't live in Ipswich. Ours will be an equal voice. That is why we call this a true local partnership.

The present system of local councils – a district authority collecting our rubbish, while another, county-based council, tells us what schools and care provision we will have - is both costly and ineffective. This is no longer an option for the 21st Century. That is not only our opinion; that is the verdict of the independent Boundary Committee.

We want to see an effective local council working in partnership with enthusiastic and hard-working parish and town councils with real power, whose opinions are listened to and who can make the decisions for their own communities.

Meeting local needs

The North Haven Council offers savings and local empowerment - big enough to be effective, local enough to care. There is no other option.

One remote council trying to govern almost three quarters of a million people from Felixstowe to Newmarket is not good news for people like us who have a sense of place in our own community, people like us who are proud of where we live. Giant councils cannot meet local needs.

We all need to re-build people's faith in local government: stories of mega-salaries and mega-waste are damaging to all of us.

Some people say council tax in Ipswich is too high and they fear their bills rocketing. Firstly, three-quarters of all our council tax bills are swallowed up by the County Council. Secondly, bills will not rocket: replacing eight chief executives and eight sets of senior bureaucrats with just two will cut costs and bring savings to us all without becoming remote. It's simple arithmetic. The county council model proposes 25 separate area panels, each with costly premises and support staff. This would see costs and red tape spiralling out of control.

The Boundary Committee has asked Ipswich Borough Council to meet representatives of Felixstowe, Kesgrave, Claydon, Capel and all the other partners in south-east Suffolk to discuss their needs and to see how they can play a full

part in shaping the future. This will be a brand new council. Sometimes it can be hard to accept change but change can also be an opportunity. Please join the partnership of prosperity and help build something that we and our children can all be proud of.

So why will this be better?

- Less waste means savings for council tax-payers
- Local decision-making means stronger communities
- A new council will attract more investment, more jobs, more prosperity
- More say over our own schools and bus routes
- Better for business – one-stop shop planning and support
- A bigger voice at local, regional and national levels

Help make this work by signing up to a partnership of prosperity. If you want to cut costs and help shape your community please email us or write to us at Grafton House, 15-17 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2DE

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