

Cllr Brian Berman

Tel: 01626 891871

Fax: 01626 891750

Mobile: 07900088774

brian.berman@btinternet.com

brian.berman@devon.gov.uk

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

Dear Sir

a Devon unitary authority comprising the existing county of Devon, with no changes to Plymouth and Torbay

I am an Executive member of Devon County Council and also an Executive member of Teignbridge District Council. I have been a member of Devon County Council since 1993 and Teignbridge District Council since 1995.

I fully support the Boundary Committee's draft proposal for a single Unitary Council comprising the existing county of Devon.

It soon became clear to me when I first stood for the Council that in order to represent my area on all issues and to be able to address individual problems across the board it would be necessary to be on both District and County Councils.

Thus, in effect, I have functioned as a unitary Councillor all of this time as, indeed, 43, I believe, of the existing 62 County Councillors do the same.

These days, the strategic and financial clout of a large Council is essential to function efficiently and to be able to participate in and influence decisions at a National and European level.

Currently, the eight District Councils all have to support their Chief Executive and senior management structures which cost a significant portion of their net budgets – each of the Councils are constantly 're-inventing the wheel' as they grapple with the problems of the day, within a restricted remit, and essentially come up with similar answers.

Coping with the 2004 Planning and Compensation Act requirements to produce a Local Development Framework by each of the District Councils has proved to be a nightmare for some – much better done by a larger unitary Council.

The savings, accredited and agreed by an independent body, that would be made have been submitted by Devon County Council to the Boundary Committee:

- A £29 million saving in the first five years for a single Devon unitary
- Pay back of transition costs within 3 years and 8 months
- Year on year savings of £19m thereafter

The County of Devon is a brand known all over the world – and Devonians identify strongly with their County.

I say that the time has come for Devon to have a single Council and that it will bring prosperity and cohesion to all of the people of Devon and give us the best administrative setup for dealing with the environmental threats that we all face.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Berman

(Executive Member for Communities, DCC. Executive Member Communities, TDC)

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