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## **Decisions on unitary local government in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk**

On 6 February 2008, the Boundary Committee was requested by the Secretary of State to provide advice on whether there could be proposals for unitary local government in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk. That advice was submitted to the Secretary of State on 7 December 2009 under section 5(2) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

I am now writing to inform you that the Secretary of State has today announced that, after consideration of the Boundary Committee's advice, the representations made and all the other relevant information available, he has decided that:

- the Boundary Committee's proposal for a unitary county council in Devon should not be implemented and the original proposal for a unitary Exeter should be implemented;
- the Boundary Committee's proposal for a unitary county council in Norfolk should not be implemented and the original proposal for a unitary Norwich should be implemented; and
- we will invite all the Suffolk councils, with their Members of Parliament, consulting other stakeholders and through a county constitutional convention, to reach a consensus on a unitary solution for that area.

Copies of the letters that have been sent to local authorities setting out the reasoning for these decisions is available on the Department's website at [www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/restructuring/](http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/restructuring/). If you require a hard copy of the letter please contact us.

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