



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

27 March 2018

The Chief Executive of:  
Corby Borough Council  
Daventry District Council  
East Northamptonshire Council  
Kettering Borough Council  
Northampton Borough Council  
Northamptonshire County Council  
South Northamptonshire Council  
Borough Council of Wellingborough

Dear Chief Executive,

**Invitation to submit a proposal for a single tier of local government in Northamptonshire**

The Secretary of State today has announced in a statement to Parliament how he proposes to proceed following receipt on 15 March 2018 of the Northamptonshire County Council Best Value Inspection report. In his statement he also announced that he is inviting the principal councils in Northamptonshire to develop and submit locally led proposals for establishing unitary authorities across the county which will be right for the communities and people they serve. Accordingly, he is exercising his powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (“2007 Act”) to invite Northamptonshire councils to make proposals for restructuring local government, and I enclose the statutory Invitation to your council along with statutory guidance from the Secretary of State.

As you will see, a proposal in response to the Invitation can be submitted by an individual council or jointly with some or all of the other councils in Northamptonshire. Proposals should be received no later than Friday 27 July 2018.

The Invitation is to submit what the 2007 Act refers to as a ‘combined proposal’. A combined proposal may be, for example, a proposal for two or more Type B proposals under the Act (a Type B proposal being a proposal for a unitary authority for the area of one or more districts which form part of a county area), or a proposal consisting of one or more Type B and Type C proposals (a Type C proposal being a proposal for a unitary authority for an area which is part of a county and one or more adjoining districts in an adjacent county). It should be noted therefore that a proposal for a single unitary authority covering the entirety of Northamptonshire is not an option under the Invitation.

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Head of the Governance Reform and Democracy Unit  
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The guidance, to which any authority making a proposal must have regard, sets out what any proposal should seek to achieve, and the matters to be taken into account in formulating a proposal. In particular, any proposal should seek to achieve unitary structures which are likely to:

- Improve local government and service delivery across the area;
- Be based on a credible geography; and
- Command a good deal of local support.

These are therefore the criteria against which any proposal will be assessed.

Other factors that should be taken into account in formulating any proposal include the findings and recommendations of the Northamptonshire County Council Best Value Inspection report, and wider regional issues such as how a new authority might be able to boost housing delivery and contribute to the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford growth corridor.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch, and if it would be helpful, I would of course be happy to meet you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. RowSELL". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**P ROWSELL**

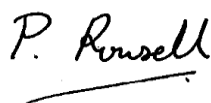
## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007**

### **INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR A SINGLE TIER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, in exercise of his powers under Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, hereby invites any principal authority for an area that is the whole or part of the county of Northamptonshire to make, in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 3 below, a combined proposal that there should be a single tier of local government for areas which together comprise an area of which that county is the whole or part.

1. Any proposal must be made by 27 July 2018.
2. In responding to this invitation an authority must have regard to the guidance from the Secretary of State set out in the Schedule to this invitation, and to any further guidance on responding to this invitation received from the Secretary of State.
3. An authority responding to this invitation may either make its own proposal or make a proposal jointly with any of the other authorities invited to respond.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.



P Rowsell

A senior civil servant in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

27 March 2018

## SCHEDULE

Paragraphs 1 to 2 below set out guidance from the Secretary of State.

1. A proposal should seek to achieve for the area concerned the establishment of a single tier of local government, that is the establishment of unitary authorities:
  - a. which are likely to improve local government and service delivery across the area of the proposal, giving greater value for money, generating savings, providing stronger strategic and local leadership, and which are more sustainable structures;
  - b. which command a good deal of local support as assessed in the round overall across the whole area of the proposal; and
  - c. where the area of each unitary authority is a credible geography consisting of one or more existing local government areas and having a substantial population that at a minimum is substantially in excess of 300,000.
  
2. The following matters should be taken into account in formulating a proposal:
  - a. A proposal should describe clearly the single tier local government structures it is putting forward, and explain how, if implemented, these are expected to achieve the outcomes described in paragraph 1 above.
  - b. The need for evidence and analysis to support a proposal and any explanation of the outcomes it is expected to achieve, including evidence of a good deal of local support.
  - c. The report “Northamptonshire County Council Best Value Inspection: January – March 2018”, in particular the inspection team’s recommendation on the preferred way forward involving “the 2 unitary (West and North) model”.
  - d. The wider context for any unitary authorities in Northamptonshire around plans for growth. This includes authorities’ potential contributions to the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor; and the potential for agreement between authorities and the Government to unlock ambitious housing delivery, above the level proposed in the Government's Local Housing Need assessment.

- e. That there should be extensive local consultation about any proposal before it is made, seeking the views by appropriate means of residents, stakeholders and partners including local enterprise partnerships, health bodies, businesses, and other organisations including voluntary organisations. The means of seeking views may include professionally led open consultation questionnaires, representative household surveys, surveys of parish and town councils, workshops, telephone interviews with other major stakeholders, and inviting written submissions.



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

18 May 2018

Chief executives,  
Principal councils in Northamptonshire

Dear chief executive,

**Variation of Invitation to submit a proposal for a single tier of local government in Northamptonshire**

Thank you for your joint letter of 3 May 2018 in which you provided an update on the work you are undertaking together to formulate a proposal for unitary structures in Northamptonshire, and requested that the date for submitting any proposal to the Secretary of State is changed to the end of August, in particular to allow time for proper public consultation.

As you know, in his Written Ministerial Statement on 10 May 2018 the Secretary of State announced that he was happy to grant your request and that accordingly any proposal in response to his Invitation of 27 March to your councils is to be submitted by the end of August 2018.

I now enclose a formal Variation of Invitation, which gives effect to the revised deadline. Except for the change of date by which proposals must be made, the Invitation and Guidance issued on 27 March 2018 are unchanged.

As ever, if I or my team are able to assist you in developing any proposal, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

**P ROWSELL**

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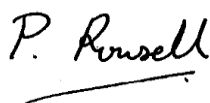
## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007**

### **VARIATION OF INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR A SINGLE TIER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, in exercise of his powers under section 3(7) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, hereby varies his Invitation of 27 March 2018 to any principal local authority for an area that is the whole or part of the county of Northamptonshire (“the Invitation”) as follows.

In paragraph 1 of the Invitation, the date of 27 July 2018 is changed to 31 August 2018.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Rowsell', with a horizontal line underneath it.

P Rowsell

A senior civil servant in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

18 May 2018