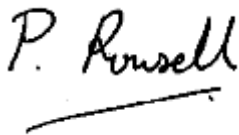


LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007
INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR A SINGLE TIER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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 in the area of the county of Somerset; the area of Bath and North East Somerset; and the area of North Somerset, to submit a proposal for a single tier of local government, in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 3 below.

1. If an authority wishes to make a proposal in response to this invitation it must submit by 9 November 2020 at least an outline proposal, and if a full proposal has not been submitted by that date, the full proposal must be submitted as soon as practicable thereafter and by no later than 9 December 2020.
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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Rowsell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

P Rowsell

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

9 October 2020

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 one or more 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 with an aggregate population which is either within the range 300,000 to 600,000, or such other figure that, having regard to the circumstances of the authority, including local identity and geography, could be considered substantial.

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 impact of any proposed unitary authorities on other local boundaries and geographies. If the area of any proposed unitary authority crosses existing police force and fire and rescue authority boundaries, the proposal should include an assessment of what the impact would be on the police forces and/or fire and rescue authorities and include the views of the relevant Police and Crime Commissioners and Fire and Rescue Authorities.

d. Any wider context for any proposed unitary authorities around promoting economic recovery and growth, including possible future devolution deals and Mayoral Combined Authorities.

e. If the proposal submitted by 9 November 2020 is an outline proposal it should indicate what further material is expected to be provided and when this would be submitted which should be no later than 9 December 2020.