

LGA Initial Feedback Summary

General

- For the final proposal(s) each council can submit a single proposal for which there must be a clear single option and geography.....for the area as a whole.
- ...final proposal should use the same assumptions and data sets or be clear where and why there is a difference.
- Effective collaboration between all councils.....will be crucial...
- ...set out how the data and evidence supports all the outcomes you have included,....
-consider and options appraisal.....why your proposed approach....best meets the assessment criteria....

Boundary Change

- If boundary change is part....should be clear on the proposed change and the justification.
- Further detail and evidence on the costs, efficiency savings and outcomes
- Where there are proposed boundary changes, the proposal should provide strong public services and financial sustainability related justification for the change.
-sensible geography which will help to increase housing supply and meet local needs, including future housing growth plans.
-how efficiency savings have been considered alongside a sense of place and local identity.
- ...some of the options....above or below 500,000...we outlined a population size of 500,000 or more...guiding principle, not a hard target....ambition to build out devolution and take account of housing growth, alongside local government reorganisation. All proposal, whether they are at the guided level, above it, or below it, should set out the rationale for the proposed approach clearly.
- ...consideration be given to the impacts for crucial services such as social care, children's services, SEND and homelessness, and for wider public services including for public safety....how the different options might impact on these services and how risks can be mitigated.
-boundary changes are possible, but "existing district areas should be considered the building blocks for proposals, but where there is a strong justification more complex boundary changes will be considered.
-boundary change can be achieved alongside structural change.
Alternatively, you could make a proposal for unitary local government using existing district building blocks and consider requesting a Principal Area Boundary Review later... where both councils have requested a review.

National Parks

- Impact on National Park Authorities....welcome further details on potential issues to understand what support may be needed.

Funding

- Funding...£7.6 million....to be split across the 21 areas.
-transitional costs and future funding.....meet transition costs over time from existing budgets....debt....assets and liabilities remain locally managed by councils.
-council tax harmonisation.....established flexible system in legislation for the harmonisation of council tax levels over seven years.

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Impact

- ...evidence the impact on health and care service delivery....including identified risks (along with a plan for mitigating those risks) and a consideration of work force challenges.
- ...deliver high-quality and sustainable public services of efficiency saving opportunities
- ...potential impacts of disaggregating services
-what would the different options mean for local services provision...SEND....adult and children's care services.....risks to safeguarding managed.
-do different options have variable impacts on schools, support and funding allocation, and sufficiency of places, and how will impacts on schools be managed.
- ...what impact will be there be on highway services.
- ...implications for public health
-unique needs of Devon's large rural and coastal areas. Any proposal(s) will need to balance the needs of different areas and consider issues of local identity and cultural and historic importance.

Engagement

- New unitary structures should enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment
- ...how the community will be engaged, specifically how the governance, participation and local voice will be addresses to strengthen local engagement and democratic decision-making would be helpful.
- ...your plans for neighbourhood-based governance, the impact on parish councils, and the role of formal neighbourhood partnerships and area committees.
-for you to decide how best to engage locally in a meaningful and constructive way....
- ...see detail that demonstrates how local ideas and views have been incorporated into the final proposals(s)

What Happens Next

- Once a proposal has been submitted it will be for the government to decide on taking a proposal forward and to consult as required by statute...may not implement a proposal unless she has consulted with other councils affected by it and any other appropriate person.