

Town & Parish Council Briefing

Date:	19 February 2019
Ref no:	8

Title:	Boundary review, Government consultation, Structural Change Order
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Summary: Boundary review to take place after creation of unitary councils; Government consultation now complete; Structural Change Order to be agreed by all eight councils

Further information:

Boundary review

Assuming that the unitary proposal goes ahead, it was hoped that a boundary review could be carried out in time for the 2020 elections so that those elections would be on the new boundaries. However, the Boundary Commission has advised us that it will not be possible to do it in that time and that a review has been included in its 2021/22 work programme.

Government consultation

The Government's consultation on the proposals for West and North Northants concluded on 25th January. Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) will now read and consider the various responses received from councils and consultees. This will all help to inform the Secretary of State's (SoS) decision on proceeding with unitary, which we expect will be announced before the Easter recess.

Structural Change Order

Whilst we await the SoS's decision, we are preparing representations on the detail required to create two new authorities. All eight councils are meeting over the next fortnight to discuss and agree the content of the Structural Change Order, which is the legal document that sets out aspects of the structure of the new councils, such as the electoral cycle, number of members and ward arrangements. Each council will then submit its proposals to the SoS for consideration.

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