

Local Government Structural Review: Norfolk and Suffolk Response from Keswick and Intwood Parish Council.

The Parish Council, having considered all of the information available, believes that the status quo should be maintained. The Council does not believe that a robust case has been made that demonstrates unequivocally a convincing package of benefits that justify change. Moreover, the Council believes there are no adequate examples showing other unitary authorities which have been created successfully achieving the benefits and cost savings anticipated.

If change is essential the Council absolutely opposes the creation of Norwich (with or without extended boundaries) as a separate unitary authority. Norwich is a focal point for the County and separating it can only mean the diminution of facilities and services for the rest of the County.

On balance the Council concludes that if change must take place, Norfolk would be better served if all council services came from a single local council. In particular the Parish Council believes this would:

- enable the lowest average council tax
- give fair access to high quality public services to everyone across the County
- avoid confusion about who provides which services
- create minimum disruption and the proportionate cost of change and reorganisation
- provide one council leader and one unitary councillor to help and assist with all council issues
- stand the best chance (by replacing eight councils) to save enough money every year to improve local communities

Currently, some 85% of all council services in Norfolk are provided by a single council so unitary status for the County would not, in the view of the Parish Council, create an authority too big to manage local issues. Furthermore, the Council believes that one authority would best draw together strengths from the interdependencies of Norwich and the remainder of the County

Finally the Parish Council is of the opinion that one single council for Norfolk has the best chance to make savings to pay for the changes and contribute most money for essential local services.

*Phillip Brooks, Clerk
Keswick and Intwood Parish Council.
T. 01603 250639.
E-mail. keswick.intwood@btinternet.com
21st September 2008.*