

## County Councillor Report Melton Parish Council Meeting 8.8.07

### 1. Unitary Ipswich

It was announced 25<sup>th</sup> July that the Ipswich unitary proposal had gained approval (subject to further financial scrutiny) from the government. The list of all the new unitary authorities is below.

<b>Councils Submitting Proposals</b>	<b>Proposed unitary structure</b>
Bedford Borough Council	Bedford Unitary
Chester City Council	2 Unitary Cheshire
Cornwall County Council	County Unitary
Durham County Council	County Unitary
Exeter City Council	Exeter Unitary
Ipswich Borough Council	Ipswich Unitary
Northumberland County Council	County Unitary
Shropshire County Council	County Unitary
Wiltshire County Council	County Unitary

A new Ipswich Unitary Council will take back control of schools, social care and libraries and some other services delivered at present by the County Council and will "buy" from the County Council other services such as waste disposal. Suffolk County Council will lose approximately 20% of its revenue budget but not 20% of its expenditure. The County Council will also be responsible for the transition costs incurred from now until 2009 when the Unitary Authority is up and running. Services and contracts etc will need to be "unpicked" before they can be handed over.

All 5 Pathfinder bids have been agreed including Suffolk County Councils. This means that Suffolk County Council will work in partnership with all the other district councils in Suffolk (excluding Ipswich).

### 2. 2012 Project Manager appointed

With just 5 years to go before the Olympics in London, Suffolk has appointed a 2012 project manager to make sure the county obtains full benefit of the games. He will make sure that Suffolk takes all available

opportunities to boost tourism and improve the local economy. An economic impact study commissioned by the East of England Development Agency suggests that Suffolk could gain up to £66m as a result of the London 2012 Games.

### 3. Your County needs you!

The County Council currently has vacancies at both the primary schools in Melton for a school governor. As a governor, you would be joining Englands largest group of volunteers, currently 300,000, who are dedicated to raising standards in schools. Governors make key decisions with regards to curriculum, pupil targets, health and safety, school improvement, budget, staffing and management of premises among others. Governors come from all walks of life and no specialist knowledge is needed. If you feel you may be interested please contact me and I can arrange for an information pack to be sent to you and someone to answer any questions you may have.

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