



*"more support for older people"*



*"extra help for families"*



# How would you spend £20million?

## On a new council or better services?

Exeter City Council wants to break away from the rest of Devon and form a new unitary council – just like Plymouth and Torbay. This means it wants to run all local services in Exeter including schools, social care and roads – which are currently provided by Devon County Council.

**Another struggling unitary council in Devon will harm public services and increase costs in Exeter and across the county – just like it did when Plymouth and Torbay became unitary councils.**

**£20 million could be better spent on public services not changing Council structures.**

## If it ain't broke, why fix it?

## Why a unitary council for Exeter is a **BAD** idea

### It's **EXPENSIVE**



Expert independent research shows that an Exeter unitary council will create a £20 million black hole with no chance of the massive costs ever being repaid through savings.

Nine years ago it cost £30 million to set up unitary councils in Plymouth and Torbay. Tax-payers paid the price in higher bills and poorer services.

If another unitary council is set up in Exeter we'll all pay the price one way or another.

### It's **DISRUPTIVE**



Evidence shows that small unitary councils struggle to provide good quality services.

They don't have enough resources and too much time, money and effort is wasted on setting up the new council.

Exeter City Council has no experience of running modern education and social care services. Since becoming unitary councils Plymouth and Torbay have struggled to provide these vital services.

### It's **WASTEFUL**



More bureaucracy and higher salaries mean savings are never achieved.

There will have to be yet another Local Education Authority and more chief officers. There will be extra costs from duplicating administrative arrangements with the Health Service, Police and Learning and Skills Council. Even the City Council admits it will have 41 bureaucratic arrangements with other organisations if it expands into a unitary council.

### It's **UNNECESSARY**



Exeter has been hugely successful in recent years – why change?

The County and City Councils work well together – it's one of the reasons why the city and wider Exeter area have enjoyed a booming economy in recent years. The relocation of the Met Office to Exeter is a shining example of this.



# Stronger together

We're stronger together and both the city and the rest of Devon will suffer if that partnership is broken up. That's why the County Council and all Devon's District Councils have put positive proposals to the Government for closer collaboration in the future. These are progressive ideas which will improve local services, provide better value for money and avoid the massive expense of reorganisation.

## Who provides your services in Exeter

Devon County Council spent **£138M** in Exeter last year on the following services

- Schools
- School transport
- Care for older people
- Care for adults with physical disabilities and learning difficulties
- Child protection
- Meals on wheels
- Road maintenance
- Libraries
- Cycle routes
- Trading standards
- Recycling centres
- Public transport
- Park and ride
- Evening classes

Exeter City Council spent **£46M** on the following services in Exeter

- Council housing
- Housing benefits
- Planning
- Refuse collection and recycling
- Car parking
- Street cleaning
- Leisure centres and pools
- Electoral register
- Environmental health
- Council tax administration

## United not Unitary



By Brian Greenslade,  
Leader of Devon County Council

Councils having a row are a big turn-off, but when you strip away all the froth surrounding Exeter City Council's bid to become a unitary authority there are serious issues at stake that affect everyone in our great county.

Our experience and professional knowledge tells us that services will suffer and costs will increase. We're not alone.

Respected experts such as Sir Michael Lyons and Professor Michael Chisholm have serious concerns about the waste and disruption reorganising councils creates.

Exeter is Devon's capital. It's the driving force of the local economy and the administrative heart of public services throughout the county. But with a population of only 117,000 it cannot afford the services that a county of 730,000 can.

Exeter benefits from being part of Devon's extended family where we all contribute something through our taxes to support each other and help spread the cost.

**Take Exeter's new schools, for example. On average each of us pays £4 a year in Council Tax to help run them. If Exeter splits from Devon the costs would fall on the citizens of Exeter who would then pay £70 a year extra on average.**

The County Council spends £3.6 million a year more in Exeter than it receives in revenue. Exeter is important to the rest of Devon so we make big investments to help ensure the city is working well.

The truth is the City and the County need each other, as the independent Local Government Commission said when it rejected the City Council's bid for unitary status in the 1990s.

Nothing's changed - except Exeter has become more successful. And if that's happened because the City and County Councils work really well together why waste £20 million tearing it apart? ■

**If it ain't broke, why fix it?**

If you care about the future of public services, the future of our city and our county and if you care about the costs, make sure **YOU HAVE YOUR SAY!**

## Have your say. . .

During the next 12 weeks the Government will be consulting organisations in Devon about the City Council's unitary idea. They include the Health Service, Police, Learning and Skills Council, the business community and voluntary agencies. There isn't a public vote on the unitary proposal, but you can have your say by writing to the Secretary of State Ruth Kelly at: **Communities and Local Government Zone 5/E8, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU** Or email: [structures@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:structures@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

You can also tell us what you think by writing to:

**Consultation – LGR, FREEPOST EX214,  
Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QD.**

Or email: [consultation@devon.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@devon.gov.uk)

For more information about the Exeter Unitary consultation visit [www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk)



For help, advice and information about your local County Council services call **MyDevon** on 0845 155 1015.