

7 August 2008

To all Section 151 Officers

Re: Boundary committee draft proposal:
Devon unitary authority

Boundary Committee other pattern:
Exeter and Exmouth unitary authority
Devon unitary authority

Further to Archie Gall's letter dated 7 July, we have set out below some further points which are aimed to give a consistent approach to the submission of data relating to the affordability criteria, and to make the consideration of the data as smooth as possible.

You will know that the date set for the submission of the data is 12 September 2008. As previously requested, I would be grateful if you can confirm who the lead S151 officer will be for each unitary authority identified in the report. When sending the requested data, please ensure that you also copy in to the email both independent financial consultants, as this will help to speed the process. The email addresses for both independent financial consultants are as follows:

admin@cwwa-ltd.co.uk
tony@stuton.co.uk

In the letter dated 7 July, all S151 officers of authorities who are directly affected by the submission were requested to make a certification. The wording of the certification was given. I now attach a certification form below using the same wording. In order to make the process as smooth as possible, I would be grateful if these forms could be collated by the lead S151 officer for each unitary authority and sent by email to me **with the submitted data** by 12 September, copied at the same time to both the Committee's financial consultants.

As soon as the data is received, it will be acknowledged and any immediate issues regarding the completeness or other wise of the data will be notified. Whilst examining the data received, it may be that additional information will need to be sought. It will be

important that responses are received as a matter of urgency in view of the overall timetable.

Thank you once again for your co-operation in this matter which I hope will speed the process and make it as smooth as possible for all involved.

Yours sincerely

Tim Bowden
Review Officer
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020 7271 0652

**BOUNDARY COMMITTEE REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES IN
NORFOLK SUFFOLK AND DEVON**

**REVIEW TO TEST WHETHER AFFORDABILITY CRITERIA
ARE MET**

Certification by S 151 officer

Title of Unitary Submission	Devon Two Unitaries
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'I have provided base data as required relating to my authority for the completion of the *specified* data collection workbook, and I have checked the base data already included in that workbook, and I am satisfied that these have been properly incorporated.

I have been consulted on relevant issues in the calculation of the figures for the transitional plan shown in the data collection workbook where they affect my authority, and find the figures to be not unreasonable.'

(If the figures were found to be unreasonable, then a comment as to which figures and why should be provided in the box below)

Please provide details here or cross reference to a supporting document

I can confirm that I have supplied all requested information and have checked their inclusion in the overall document.

With regard to the consultation process, Devon County Council has invited all s151 officers to meetings on 4th April, 23rd May, 27th June, 11th July, 22nd August and 5th September. At these meetings, the County officers have explained their approach to completing the workbooks and the information we need to provide. We have challenged some methods of apportionments but have not been consulted about how the final submission on the affordability affects our individual authorities nor how the transitional costs and savings relate to our individual authorities. It is, therefore, difficult for me to say that I have been consulted in the calculation of figures in the workbook where they affect my authority. We have been shown the overall workbooks and the overall assumptions regarding transitional costs and savings.

Certification by.....*J. Wallace*.....

S151 Officer for *TORRIDGE DC*.....

Email address.....*jenny.wallace@torridge.gov.uk*.....

Date.....*12TH SEPTEMBER 2008*.....