



COUNCILS FOR
DEVOLUTION

A combined authority or a single
county unitary authority?



A guide to two different proposals

Councils for Devolution

**East
Hampshire**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

EASTLEIGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

 **GOSPORT**
Borough Council

Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

A combined authority or a single county unitary authority?

Five district and borough councils in Hampshire have joined forces to explain what 'devolution' and 'unitarisation' would mean for you. Councils are currently considering the best way to run local services in the future.

Proposals include 'devolution', which would see money and powers passed down from the government to local councils, and 'unitarisation' which might see services provided across Hampshire by one council. Here we explain what each of these proposals will mean:

Model 1: the combined authority option

The offer

The combined authority model would see existing local councils provide more services to the residents they know and serve. The following benefits would accrue to the Councils for Devolution under the terms of a local Combined Authority similar to that proposed in the spring.

Democracy

One councillor per 2,378 residents
Existing councils unchanged

Finance

No set up costs
£30million Government grant each year for 30 years
Business rate retention worth £1.78million a year for the Councils for Devolution
Annual benefit per person £331.53 per year

Size matters!

Combined authority services 567,188 residents
Borough and district councils continue providing local services driven by local, authority-specific demands
Strong local representation for important matters

Efficiency

Boroughs and districts continue to innovate to make considerable savings (e.g. Fareham Borough Council has made savings of £4.65million per annum, and Havant Borough Council has made savings of £1.78million per annum)

Model 2: the single county unitary authority option

The single Hampshire wide unitary authority - one of the models being proposed by Hampshire County Council - would see one large authority governing Hampshire. It would replace all district and borough councils in an area and would aim to save money through providing a set level of services to all 1.3 million residents in Hampshire.

One councillor per 17,200 residents

One council offers a more streamlined approach

£24.4million initial set up cost

No Government grant

No business rate retention

Redundancies expected

Set up costs for new parish councils

Annual benefit per person £30.75 per year

Less local decision-making

Less local representation for important matters

Parish/town councils/committees need to be set up, trained and paid – negating savings

Savings made by not having boroughs and districts are taken to help keep the expected council tax rises to a minimum

Have your say...



Please feel free to provide your thoughts and views by completing the questionnaire online at the link below:

[Councils for devolution questionnaire](#)