

Letter suggested by Oxfordshire County Council to send to Secretary of State at DCLG

Dear Secretary of State

As town and parish councils across Oxfordshire, we have been actively engaged in the debate on local government reform over the last year.

We have, over the course of that time, reached the conclusion that the proposal to reorganise principal authorities from two tiers, to a single tier - a new authority for Oxfordshire - is the right way forward.

The Better Oxfordshire proposal offers the opportunity to release £20m a year in efficiency to reinvest in local services and infrastructure, and to create a simpler and better model of local service delivery in our county.

The strengthening of the model of community involvement, including participation by parish and town councillors in executive area boards is particularly welcome.

While significant work will need to be done through the implementation stage, we are confident that planning for this authority has considered the need for local engagement and empowerment..

We therefore support the proposals being put forward by Oxfordshire County Council, supported by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, and hope you will feel able to make a positive decision on them.