

To: All Chief Executives,  
Cumbria Councils

By email



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

22 February 2021

Dear Chief Executive,

As you may have seen from the Secretary of State's letter to your Leader, the government has now launched a consultation on all eight proposals for moving to unitary local government which it has received from councils in Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset. I enclose a copy of the Secretary of State's letter and the consultation document is available at <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/>

Your council is being specifically consulted about the proposals relating to your county area. In addition, we are consulting neighbouring authorities, including all the district councils in a neighbouring county. Your council is therefore a named consultee in relation to the two proposals for unitary local government in North Yorkshire.

The government has made clear that it would welcome views of any interested person, including residents. I would ask that your council seeks to bring the consultation to the attention of people and organisations in your local area and that you seek to facilitate the widest possible awareness of, and access to, the consultation. We will be interested to hear of the steps you are taking.

I am also grateful for the suggestions you have made as to whom might be included amongst the named consultees. Whilst not all your suggestions have been included, I would stress that any person or organisation is able to respond irrespective of whether or not they are a named consultee.

Finally, I would draw your attention to the information in the Secretary of State's letter about the postponement of the May 2021 local elections for one year in the three areas of Cumbria, North Yorkshire and Somerset.

I enclose a copy of a Written Ministerial Statement made today announcing the consultation.

Paul Rowsell CBE  
Head of Governance Reform and Democracy Unit  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor North East Corner Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Email [paul.rowsell@communities.gov.uk](mailto:paul.rowsell@communities.gov.uk)  
Telephone 0303 444 2568

If you have any queries on this letter please email to [unitaryconsultation@communities.gov.uk](mailto:unitaryconsultation@communities.gov.uk).

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Rowsell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

**P ROWSELL**

Paul Rowsell CBE  
Head of Governance Reform and Democracy Unit  
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