

25 May 2010

Chief Executive  
All Norfolk local authorities

BY EMAIL

*Dear Chief Executive,*

### **Local Government Restructuring in Norfolk**

As you will know, the Queen's Speech today announced that the Government will introduce a Bill to stop any uncompleted plans to create unitary councils.

I enclose a letter which has today been sent to the Leader of your council by Mr Neill, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in Communities and Local Government. The letter explains that the Government wishes to act quickly, intends to introduce a Bill this week, and subject to the will of Parliament, to seek its enactment by the summer. Meanwhile the Government expects councils will take no further steps, or incur expenditure on taking forward plans to implement unitary structures.

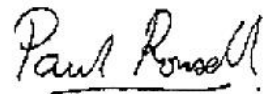
You will see that the proposed legislation will revoke the Orders that create from 1 April 2011 unitary councils for the cities of Exeter and Norwich. The Bill also provides that where any councillor's term of office has been extended by one year to May 2011 by the Orders being revoked, that extension will continue; thereafter each City Council will return to its usual pattern of elections for one third of the council annually. The Government's aim is to avoid by-elections on the revocation of the Orders with the associated costs that would arise. Finally, the Bill will also have the effect that the unitary proposals for Suffolk remaining on the table cannot be implemented.

P Rowsell  
Deputy Director Local Democracy  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
3/J1 Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London  
SW1E 5DU

Tel

If you have any queries about this letter please contact Ian Barber at [Ian.Barber@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Barber@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Rowsell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**P Rowsell**