

Recommendation

- “Council note that government is inviting full proposals for local government reorganisation by the 28th November but that government has also asked for an indication of current thinking by 21st March.
- Council also note that at the time of writing, very little data is available on which any firm proposals can be based and no time has been allowed for public engagement.
- In the light of that, and recognising government’s wish to hear current thinking, Council is recommended to highlight to government that a 1:4:5 model is the option on which most focus has been applied and is the one which, based on the very limited evidence so far available, is foremost in our plans. However, Council is also recommended to point out that the lack of data and engagement means that this may well change as we move through the process. North Devon Council will continue to examine all options before reaching any firm conclusions, in particular options that reflect the different cultures, economies and communities across rural and urban areas of Devon recognising the distinctiveness of Northern Devon .
- On that basis Council agrees to the signing of a joint letter and the submission of an interim proposal, along with other District Councils, indicating support for the 145 model, but that the Chief Executive is also delegated power to submit to government the above views on the need to explore alternative options and to continue the assessment of evidence and carry out the required engagement with the public and partners in order to influence further discussions on the preferred model.
- Council is also asked to note that further reports will be presented to Council as the process develops and prior to 28th November.”