

Response ID ANON-3XT2-BV9K-D

Submitted to Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Submitted on 2026-03-25 21:34:21

Tell us about yourself

1 What is your name?

Name:
Hilary Burton

2 Are you responding as an individual or providing an official response on behalf of an organisation?

Official response on behalf of an organisation

3 Are you providing the official response from a named consultee?

No

4 In which council area is your address? (if you are responding as an individual this is your home address. If you are responding as an organisation this is your organisation address)

Cambridgeshire County Council

5 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please let us know the organisation's name:

Organisation:
Great Wilbraham Parish Council

6 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please let us know your position within the organisation:

Position in organisation::
Chairman

7 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please select the type of organisation from the options below:

Local government - parish/town council

8 What is your email address?

Email address::
hilary.burton@greatwilbrahamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Personal Data

1 Please read and tick the box before proceeding with the consultation

The sections for each proposal in this consultation include free text boxes where you can explain your answers. Please tick this box to confirm that you will not include information which may identify an individual in these boxes

Consultation on the Proposal from Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council

1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

Dropdown answers:
Strongly agree

2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

Dropdown answers:
Neither agree nor disagree

3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

Dropdown answers:
Neither agree nor disagree

4 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

5 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

Dropdown answers:

Somewhat disagree

6 To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

7 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

Dropdown answers:

Somewhat agree

8 If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-7 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on the proposal.

Text box to add further comments:

Qu 1 Great Wilbraham Parish Council represents the interests of our small village with just over 600 residents about 6 miles due east of Cambridge. The strong relationship between South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City is important and we note that these two councils are in the same unitary authority in all proposals. Overall, we consider that Option 1, in which these two Councils become one unitary authority is the strongest proposal.

However, there are merits in Options which include parts of East Cambridgeshire into this grouping. The two parishes of Great and Little Wilbraham with Six Mile Bottom are on the eastern boundary of South Cambridgeshire, lying adjacent to Bottisham, which is in East Cambridgeshire. We have very close relationships with nearby East Cambs villages, including the shared catchment secondary school, Bottisham Village College, health facilities, social facilities and shopping at Bottisham and public transport. A recent successful new hourly bus service, the T4, which travels through all these villages and the Wilbrahams towards the Biomedical Campus testifies to these important linkages. To that extent, we therefore have a lot of sympathy for those in the neighbouring Divisions of Burwell and Wood Ditton who also share a lot of these services and who favour Option 2. However, overall, we believe that the large size and remoteness of some areas of East Cambridgeshire would make this authority hard to manage and the voices of rural parishes would become too diluted. There may be an option to include only the two divisions of Wood Ditton and Burwell , in which case we would favour this.

Whatever option is agreed we would ask that, for any of the proposals, mechanisms would be set up to support those services that cross boundaries.

Qu 5 With all the proposals there is a danger that the needs of smaller rural parishes will be swamped by the needs of Cambridge City and larger developments in the bigger South Cambs villages being proposed to support those developments including housing, transport and water infrastructure.

Qu 6 There is a danger with all the developments that the voices of smaller rural parishes will not be heard.

Qu 7 We welcome the commitment from Councils supporting Option 1 to work closely with Parish Councils and rural communities. As noted, we are keen that the voice of small rural communities such as ours is not diluted in any new governance structure. We ask for the establishment of clear channels for parish councils to engage with the new unitary authorities including regular forums and consultations mechanisms.

Resource Allocation: we are concerned that resources may be disproportionately directed towards Cambridge City and the major developing housing centres in the larger South Cambridgeshire villages. We urge that any new structure includes safeguards for fair and equitable funding for rural villages so that our local infrastructure, community facilities and environmental initiatives can be strengthened. We ask for transparency in how resources are allocated to rural areas with guarantees that small rural parishes are not disadvantaged in the reorganisation.

Great Wilbraham Parish Council is committed to working constructively with all levels of government to ensure that any reorganisation delivers the best possible outcomes for our residents

9 I confirm that I have not provided any information that identifies an individual in the free text box.

Yes

Consultation on the Proposal from Cambridgeshire County Council

1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

Dropdown answers:

Strongly agree

2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

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Somewhat disagree

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Yes

Consultation on the Proposal from Huntingdonshire District Council

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Dropdown answers:

Somewhat agree

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Dropdown answers:

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Yes

Consultation on the proposal from Peterborough City Council and Fenland District Council

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Dropdown answers:

Somewhat agree

2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

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9 This is a proposal that is accompanied by a request that the Secretary of State considers boundary change or that affects wider public services. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal sets out a strong public services and financial sustainability justification for boundary change?

Dropdown answers:

Neither agree nor disagree

10 If you would like to, please use this free text box to explain your answer to question 9.

Text box to add further comments:

11 I confirm that I have not provided any information that identifies an individual in the free text boxes.

Yes