



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# News Service



**25 September 2008**

## **Massive majority of East Devon householders against a gigantic unitary Devon council**

**East Devon District Council has forwarded to Max Caller, the Chairman of the Boundary Committee, what amounts to a petition from a quarter of households rejecting a proposal for one gigantic council in Devon.**

Almost 16,000 postcards were received within one month of an invitation to householders to 'Write to Max' and more than 99 per cent support the continuation of the existing system of local government.

Sara Randall Johnson, Leader of EDDC, said "Some people have questioned our method of consulting the residents of East Devon but we felt that the approach adopted by the Boundary Committee excluded many people from getting involved in the debate on the future shape of their local government. The Boundary Committee merely issued limited publicity seeking 'well argued representations' and ran three poorly attended 'listening events' of specially selected stakeholders in Barnstaple, Exeter and Tavistock which excluded citizens, the most important stakeholders of all. In the spirit of recent White Papers and the Government's intended statutory duty on local authorities to respond to local petitions, I felt that our postcards offered more people the chance to have their say.

"And have their say is what one quarter of our householders have done! That's a magnificent response in less than four weeks and I would like to thank everyone who has shared their views. As of this morning (25 September), we had received 15,974 responses from households across the district. Of these, 15,884 support the Council's view that the single unitary Devon is not wanted which means that more than 99% of the silent majority in East Devon are against the proposal."

Councillor Randall Johnson reminded the people of East Devon that public consultation on the Boundary Committee's proposals for reshaping local government in Devon, closes tomorrow (Friday 26 September) but said that it is not too late to submit their views. She encouraged local residents to go to 'Have your say on Unitary Devon' on the Council's website by using this link:

[http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/comment\\_on\\_devon\\_unitary.htm](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/comment_on_devon_unitary.htm)

- **The attached photograph shows Sara Randall Johnson, Leader of EDDC, with some of the 16,000 responses to her invitation to have their say to the Boundary Committee.**

## **Ends**

### **Editor's note**

A letter from Sara Randall Johnson, Leader of EDDC, with a postcard for people to complete was posted to the 62,120 households in the District during the week beginning 1 September.

For information, please contact:

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[www.eastdevon.gov.uk](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk)