

Parish Report August 2007

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Ipswich Unitary Bid

Local Government Minister John Healey has announced that nine proposals for unitary status will now go ahead towards implementation with the intention that all new authorities are fully up and running in 2009, one of these authorities will be Ipswich.

The complete list of accepted unitary proposals is listed below:

Councils Submitting Proposals	Proposed unitary structure
Bedford Borough Council	Bedford Unitary
Chester City Council	2 Unitary Cheshire
Cornwall County Council	County Unitary
Durham County Council	County Unitary
Exeter City Council	Exeter Unitary
Ipswich Borough Council	Ipswich Unitary
Northumberland County Council	County Unitary
Shropshire County Council	County Unitary
Wiltshire County Council	County Unitary

Based on the detailed assessment the Government has asked four councils - Bedford Borough Council, Chester City Council, Exeter City Council, and Ipswich Borough Council - to undertake further work and submit additional information to demonstrate conclusively the financial viability of their proposals. Final decisions on all proposals will then be taken, once the new Local Government Bill is enacted.

This will obviously have implications for many services in Ipswich and across Suffolk; as yet I do not have any firm information regarding how these will be dealt with. I have received a briefing from senior officers as to how the hand over of services will take place from the County Council to the new unitary authority and will feed back further information as it emerges.

John Healey also announced that Government will also continue to work with the five two-tier pathfinder proposals (including Suffolk County Council and the remaining district councils in Suffolk) which involved more close joint-working between the authorities to improve service delivery. Plans are being developed to implement these proposals too, again these plans are at a very early stage and I will update you when I know more.

Grants scheme for young people to get creative

A new government grants scheme for young people to make “creative media projects for film, tv, radio, online” has been launched.

If you're 13 to 19 years old and live in England, Mediabox can give you the opportunity to develop and produce creative media projects for film, television, radio, online and multi media platforms.

Mediabox is designed to allow young people to express their opinions, ideas and views, gain new skills and get their voices heard.

What's on offer?

Mediabox offers three different types of grants ranging from £100 to £80,000 to create and distribute youth-led media projects that express young people's ideas and views in a creative way.

Who can apply?

There are three types of grants offered by Mediabox:

1. My Mediabox - open to individuals and groups of people aged 13-19
2. Mid Mediabox - open to youth and/or media focused organisations
3. Big Mediabox - open to youth and/or media focused organisations

Mediabox can only award grants to organisations and young people in England. More information is available on their website: <http://www.media-box.co.uk/>

Trees For All campaign

Libraries in Suffolk are inspiring young people to read their way through the summer holidays and earn new trees for UK woods.

This year, the theme is 'The Big Wild Read'. The project started on 21 July and children can register for the scheme at their local library. When children return their first library book (after registering) they will get a Big Wild Read folder and a packet of wild flower seeds to grow. As they read more books, children will be able to collect stickers (including some with a scratch 'n' sniff feature!), activity sheets and a hologram bookmark. For each book read and returned, a child gets a 'tree token', and the more tokens given out, the more trees will be planted by the Woodland Trust, as a part of the Trust's Tree for All campaign.

The more books children read, the more trees will be planted: up to 20,000 new trees will be planted in woods throughout the UK in the autumn as a result of the campaign!