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**West Devon
Borough
Council**

16 August 2017

Dear Town/Parish Clerk

Consultation on the Proposal for One Council for South Hams and West Devon

South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council are considering the creation of one new Council for the areas currently served by the two Councils.

The One Council Proposal is one of several measures that the Councils are considering to help close the £1.9m funding gap across both Councils. South Hams and West Devon have a strong history of working together, which has resulted in a shared workforce and has successfully delivered efficiencies in monetary terms (joint savings of £6 million per annum) together with efficiencies in the delivery of services. The financial challenges that the Councils face are a shared challenge, and the clear priority of both Councils is to achieve financial sustainability in order to continue providing services to our local communities; creating one new Council is the next logical step in this journey.

The Councils are asking residents, businesses and other organisations for their views on the one Council proposal before we consider sending a final proposal to the Government in autumn 2017. These views are important to us and will help inform our Councillors' decision on whether to create one new Council.

The details of the proposal, together with a consultation survey can be found on the following website, and we welcome the views of any individuals who are resident in the South Hams and West Devon areas, and invite them to complete the consultation survey on: www.onecouncil.org.uk

YOUR COUNCIL'S FORMAL RESPONSE

We are also formally consulting the views of Parish and Town Councils, the Councils' Members of Parliament and Devon County Council. We would be grateful if you could let us have your Council's formal response on:

- Do you support the proposal of creating one new Council for the West Devon and South Hams areas? (Please see the information on www.onecouncil.org.uk)
- Do you have any other comments, concerns, or alternatives to creating one new Council?

Please can you let us have your views by **midnight on Sunday 8 October 2017** by replying to the above address or email onecouncilconsultation@swdevon.gov.uk

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION EVENT

We will be holding a dedicated meeting for Town and Parish Councils to discuss the One Council proposal at:

www.westdevon.gov.uk

Bridestowe Village Hall, 6.30 – 8.30 pm on Wednesday 6th September 2017. Please advise whether you would like to attend this event; note due to the size of the venue we are limiting attendance to two people per council. Please email onecouncilconsultation@swdevon.gov.uk to confirm your attendance and supply the names of your representatives.

ATTENDANCE AT YOUR SEPTEMBER TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

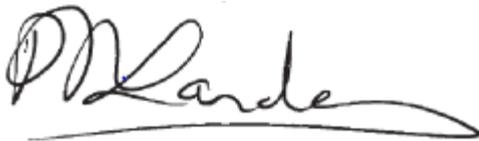
Please also advise whether you would like to include the One Council consultation on your agenda for your September Town/Parish Council meeting. If so, we will try and make a member of staff or elected Borough Councillor available to address your meeting and supply reference material.

POSTER

We would be extremely grateful if you could display the enclosed poster on your Town/Parish Council notice board to publicise the consultation to local residents.

Many thanks for your time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Sanders', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**Cllr Philip Sanders
Leader of West Devon Borough Council**