

## The right way forward

### Our agenda will:

- Deliver savings that are genuinely available
- Avoid cuts in service
- Enable efficiency savings to continue being achieved in line with Gershon efficiency targets
- Create minimal one-off costs that would be absorbed by existing budgets and investment programmes

### A better financial case

We are confident that the savings available as a result of these new ways of working will be equivalent to the realistic aspects of the county council's proposals.

This equates to:

- Savings of some £6 million a year
- Transition costs of £1.5 million (as opposed to £21 million)
- A three year improvement programme that can start immediately

### Work in partnership, look to the future, build on success

Much of the county council's unitary bid is based on assumption; our case is based on taking what we already do well and building on that success.

We have been working together on these ideas since well before the county decided to bid for unitary status. That's partly why we tend to score well when we get inspected - it's also why our local 'star' and performance ratings are better than most unitary councils.

Our achievements from working in partnership include:

- Above average CPA ratings in all the districts and improvements since the last inspections.
- A four star rating for the county council that reflects the quality of partnership working with the districts, especially in recycling and community safety.
- Above target efficiency savings of around £7 million per year.

- Beacon status for our joint work on community engagement.
- Customers First - delivering a common approach to customer standards, that has achieved over £7 million of savings. We are now progressing towards a target of 80% of telephone calls being answered at the first point of contact.
- A joint Local Area Agreement for improving the quality of life for Wiltshire residents.
- An active Wiltshire Improvement Partnership, working on areas identified by the Government as the preferred way forward for local governance.
- Joint procurement and joint provision of 'back office' services.
- Joined-up websites, where information about all services is easily available from each of the councils.

Our proposals offer an efficient and effective way forward for local government in Wiltshire, without the cost and disruption of creating a new council.



# 'Your voice, your future'

## The right way forward for local government in Wiltshire

### Working together for our residents

The three district councils of West Wiltshire, Kennet and Salisbury are working together to develop 'Your voice, your future' - the right way forward for local government in Wiltshire.

We want to look to the future, work in partnership and build on our successes to best meet the needs of the citizens and customers that we serve.

#### 'Your voice, your future' outlines our determination to:

- Transform local government in Wiltshire in a way that reflects the needs of our citizens and customers
- Harness the advantages of better collaborative working
- Maintain and enhance local identity and distinctiveness
- Build upon Wiltshire's excellent track record of partnership working

The County Council's bid for unitary status takes no account of the views of its residents. One huge single council is not something that people have asked for - equally they have not been asked if they would want such a thing.

However, your views do matter to us - and this is your opportunity to shape the future of local government in Wiltshire.

**All comments we receive will be used to inform our response to the Secretary of State.**

### A shared vision

We want to transform local government in Wiltshire in a way that reflects the needs of our citizens and customers.

We believe that the best solution for Wiltshire can be achieved through improved partnership working and greater efficiencies.

This is more than a vision, it is a clear statement of intent for improving how we deliver the services people need, in the way they need them.

Our proposals provide the framework for a better Wiltshire, in a way that avoids extensive costs, remoteness, excessive change and disruption.

#### Four principles have helped to drive our work:

- A **desire** to transform services for the benefit of the public
- A **belief** that Wiltshire is too big and too diverse to be managed by one remote unitary council
- A **confidence** that an enhanced form of the two tier structure is the way forward for Wiltshire
- A **knowledge** that the district and county councils are already working well together

All of our proposals are built around these principles. We have already embraced much of the new agenda set out within the Local Government White Paper. We need to be allowed to continue our success, by developing and delivering our ideas.