

WORLDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

East Worldham

West Worldham

Hartley Mauditt

PARISH CLERK

Robin Twining

Goldings

Worldham Hill

East Worldham

Alton

Hampshire GU34 3AT

Tel: 01420 544867

Email: worldhampc@btconnect.com

August 2016

Dear Parishioner

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSAL FOR DEVOLUTION – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware that there are proposals for potentially wide sweeping changes to the organisation of our local authorities, both County and Districts, and the services which they provide, and which could affect all of our parishioners. You may well have seen the headline article recently published in the Alton Herald referring to this.

This is a government led initiative which proposes changes to the funding of local authorities and the election of a mayor or mayors who could be given extensive powers. Local authorities have been asked for proposals as to how they would wish to implement these changes. As a result Hampshire County Council and groups of local authorities are putting forward competing proposals which are proving to be contentious.

The Solent Unitary Authorities of Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight, which already operate largely independently of Hampshire County Council, are looking to combine into one unitary authority. The leader of our District Council, EHDC, has previously proposed that our district join with this Solent Combined Authority. This proposal has not yet been formalised or put out to consultation and many Parish Councils in the EHDC area have expressed reservations about this proposal. For further information see www.easthants.gov.uk/devolution and www.solentdeal.co.uk.

Hampshire County Council has put forward its own proposal at which it would become a unitary authority, including all 11 existing District Councils in Hampshire. It is now running a public consultation on this proposal under the title *Serving Hampshire*. You can participate in this consultation on the following website www.hants.gov.uk/servinghampshire, which also provides much more information on the devolution proposal. The consultation closes on 20th September 2016.

In view of the impact that any resulting changes could have on the provision of public services by our local authorities, your Parish Council strongly recommends that you make your views known through this HCC public consultation. There may be further consultations on alternative proposals at a later date.

Yours faithfully

Terry Blake
Parish Council Chairman

Robin Twining
Parish Clerk