

PROJECT OVERVIEW

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why is it necessary?

The fact is, our structure and boundaries in Humberside are not fit for purpose. All the County Commissioners were tasked by the Regional Commissioner with reviewing their county structures and internal district boundaries. Humberside is one of the last to undertake this process. Cleveland for example merged four districts into two new (stronger) districts and put into place a new support structure to improve support to all the Districts and Groups.

The last time internal boundaries were reviewed was back in 1974 at the time of Humberside County Council being formed. Scouting, Volunteering trends and population shift is very different now, rather than 36 years ago. Some Districts have coped much better than others during that time. However we have to look at the county as a whole, not just a few struggling districts.

The bottom line is that most Groups will stay in physically the same place doing the same scouting they continue to deliver. The only real change maybe a new district badge, improved local support and growth opportunities.

2. Has the decision already been made ?

Most emphatically No!, The proposals were drawn up independently by Neil Leatherland a former CC and past member of the Committee of Council of the Scout Association. He has personal experience of merging districts in both South and West Yorkshire. The proposals have not been, and will not be discussed until the closing date has passed and submissions analysed.

3. Will our replies make a make a difference?

This is a true consultation which will be informed by the replies received from our members. In actuality the County Commissioners could have made the decision themselves but have chosen to consult with the members, and will be guided by the County Executive Committee.

4. Are we limited to the four options outlined ?

The county are consulting on the proposals and are prepared to listen to potential valid alternatives. Each proposal will receive the same amount of scrutiny. However, ultimately difficult choices and decisions will be made.

5. Who is going to pay for the cost of new badges, stationery and any other associated costs?

Historically, these costs would be shared equally between the amalgamating districts. Badges and flags, being the most expensive to replace. Usually a competition is held for the young people to design a new district badge. Economies of scale do come into play when ordering new badges. Scout Association Corporate and on brand stationery templates are available for free to download. You can just print on demand for letters etc. So no specific printing of letterheads is required. However there is the ability to order direct from the Associations printing partners (www.scouts.org.uk/brand). The county executive will consider financial support to the review process in due course. But clearly it would be wise not to order any future supplies of current district badge stocks until the review is complete.

6. Will any new District have a new DC in charge (not Acting) from Day One?

It is hoped that new DC would be identified before the new structure is in place. A search group would be convened. Remember that it is a function of the district executive to assist in the search process.

The HQ Regional Development Service will assist with the search process, as necessary. Remember that a lot of shared knowledge and experience would still exist within the merger of any Districts.

7. Why has a merger of the 3 Hull Districts not been put forward as an option?

Principally the river Hull has traditionally been seen as a major divide within the city (not only in Rugby League terms). Look at the example of the current existing boundaries established decades ago. However a city district may be viable and we are prepared to investigate further.

8. What happens if we do nothing ?

This county, without internal changes, is not viable in the longer term. Now is the time to address some of these difficult issues.

Clearly any changes will require a will and capacity to change. Some compromises will need to be made by all parties.

9. Is it possible to extend the date for the submission of replies?

It has been decided to extend the date to the 20 June 2010. any further extension will only delay the process.

10. Are the existing districts formally closing down on 31/3/11 and re opening as new districts on 1/4/11 (with new names, exec etc) or is it that districts will merge? This has a financial implication as if a district closes, POR states all monies held pass to the County.

Remember POR is only a guide. It is not envisaged that monies will come to county. As we see the process districts will close their accounts at the same time, a new account will then be opened in the name of the new district. As to the timescale non has been fixed, ideally it would be better to close accounts at the year end, but this is not a race. Actions will be taken to a timescale which will suit all participants.

11. Why is there a rush to have new districts in place for 1/4/11? This is a big change which should not be hurried?

There is no rush - see above.

12. The reasons for the proposal to amalgamate districts are listed, but nowhere does it imply it will improve the quality of scouting. Should this have been considered before making districts so large they could be unmanageable?

Neil Leatherland has done two reviews in 2 Counties and both have seen significant improvements in numbers of adults and young people both within the sections, administration and management of camp sites.

The average size of a District in the UK is 800 members even after our plans in some cases we will still be below that.