

# News Release

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## One Council Consultation Closed – Thank You

**10/10/2017**

South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council would like to say a big thank you to everyone who completed the One Council consultation survey, engaged with councillors at recent events and took the time to read the material they published.

**Cllr Philip Sanders, Leader of West Devon Borough Council said:** “This is probably the biggest and most important decision we will ever make. I can assure you that none of us is taking it lightly. The way local services are delivered is changing across the country. It has to, because councils just do not have the money to continue doing what they have always done.

“Thank you for telling us what you think about this proposal, now it is our turn to decide if this is the right way forward for South Hams and West Devon.”

**Cllr John Tucker, Leader of South Hams District Council Said:** “During the consultation someone said to me, ‘aren’t you asking members to vote themselves out of a job?’ Yes we are. If this proposal goes through, there will most likely be a reduction in the number of councillors, so we are asking councillors to vote to reduce their own numbers. But that just demonstrates to me, the severity of the decision members are facing: Create one new council with West Devon, cut your numbers and raise council tax or dramatically cut public services. It is not going to be an easy decision, but I know I want to put the public services first. ”

The consultation results will now be collated and presented to councillors. They will discuss the findings at their next Overview and Scrutiny meetings and then both councils are holding a special full council meeting on 31 October. It will be at this meeting on 31 October that councillors will make their decision on whether to submit a proposal to create one new council to the Secretary of State.

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