

---

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
EXECUTIVE  
HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2003**

---

**EX.310/03 REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW**

**Portfolio:** Policy Performance Management Finance and Resources

**Subject Matter**

To consider a Report of the Town Clerk and Chief Executive (CE.28/03) enclosing the draft recommendations for Unitary Local Government in Cumbria recently published by the Boundary Committee for England.

The draft recommendations for Cumbria were either one Unitary Authority comprising the whole of the County of Cumbria, or two Unitary Authorities based on the northern and southern areas of Cumbria incorporating Lancaster City from Lancashire.

The Boundary Committee had not included the City Council's preferred option of a Carlisle and Eden Unitary Authority, although they had emphasised that they had not finalised their recommendations for Cumbria and Lancashire, and were not dismissing outright those proposals on which they were not consulting. Rather they were recommending options that they considered based on the evidence received so far to be most likely to meet the objectives of the review.

There was now a period of consultation until 23 February 2004 during which time comments, information and further evidence was invited.

The timetable for consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committees and other relevant groups, culminating in a special Council Meeting on 20 February 2004, was submitted.

Councillor Mitchelson expressed disappointment that the people of Carlisle were not being given the opportunity to judge all of the options put forward for the future structure of local government in Cumbria. He reported that the District Councils in Cumbria had met with the Boundary Committee and been advised that, whilst they had not ruled out three unitary authorities for Cumbria, they needed to be convinced that these would be able to deliver strategic services.

**Summary of options rejected**

None

**DECISION**

1. That the draft recommendations of the Boundary Committee be noted.
2. That the Town Clerk and Chief Executive's Report be referred for further comment to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
3. That external consultation be carried out as set out in the timetable and, in addition, a State of the City Debate be arranged for mid-February 2004 on the future shape of Local Government in the Carlisle area.
4. That the outcome of the State of the City Debate, and consultation with

Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Non-Domestic Ratepayers, City Vision partners and the Parish Councils be reported to the City Council when a decision will be made on a further response to the Boundary Committee.

5. That no request for additional resources be made in respect of the Regional Government debate.

6. That the Executive consider feedback to consultation at a special meeting on 13 February 2004 and make a recommendation to the City Council on 20 February 2004 on a proposed response to the Boundary Committee on their published options.

7. That the revised timetable for progressing a response through the City Council's democratic processes be approved.

### **Reasons for decisions**

To make the necessary arrangements to formulate a further response to the Boundary Committee on their draft recommendations.