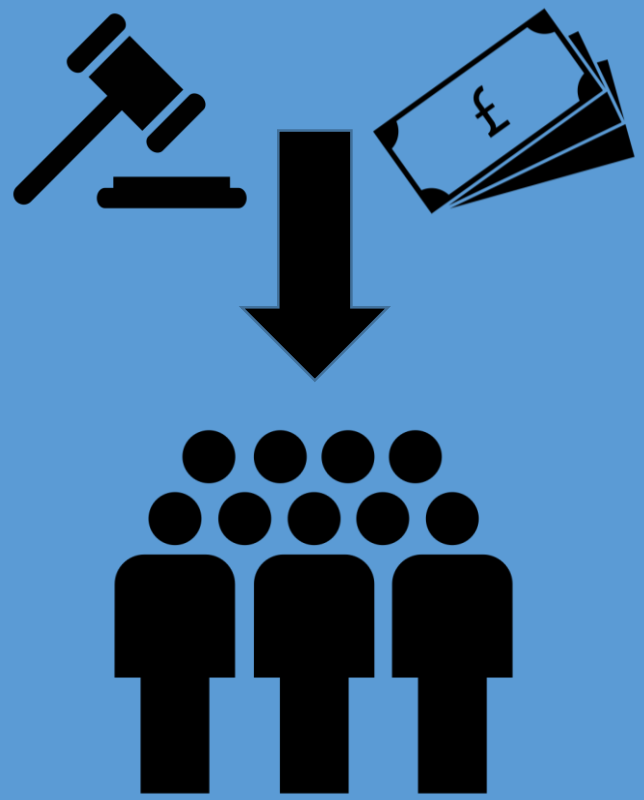
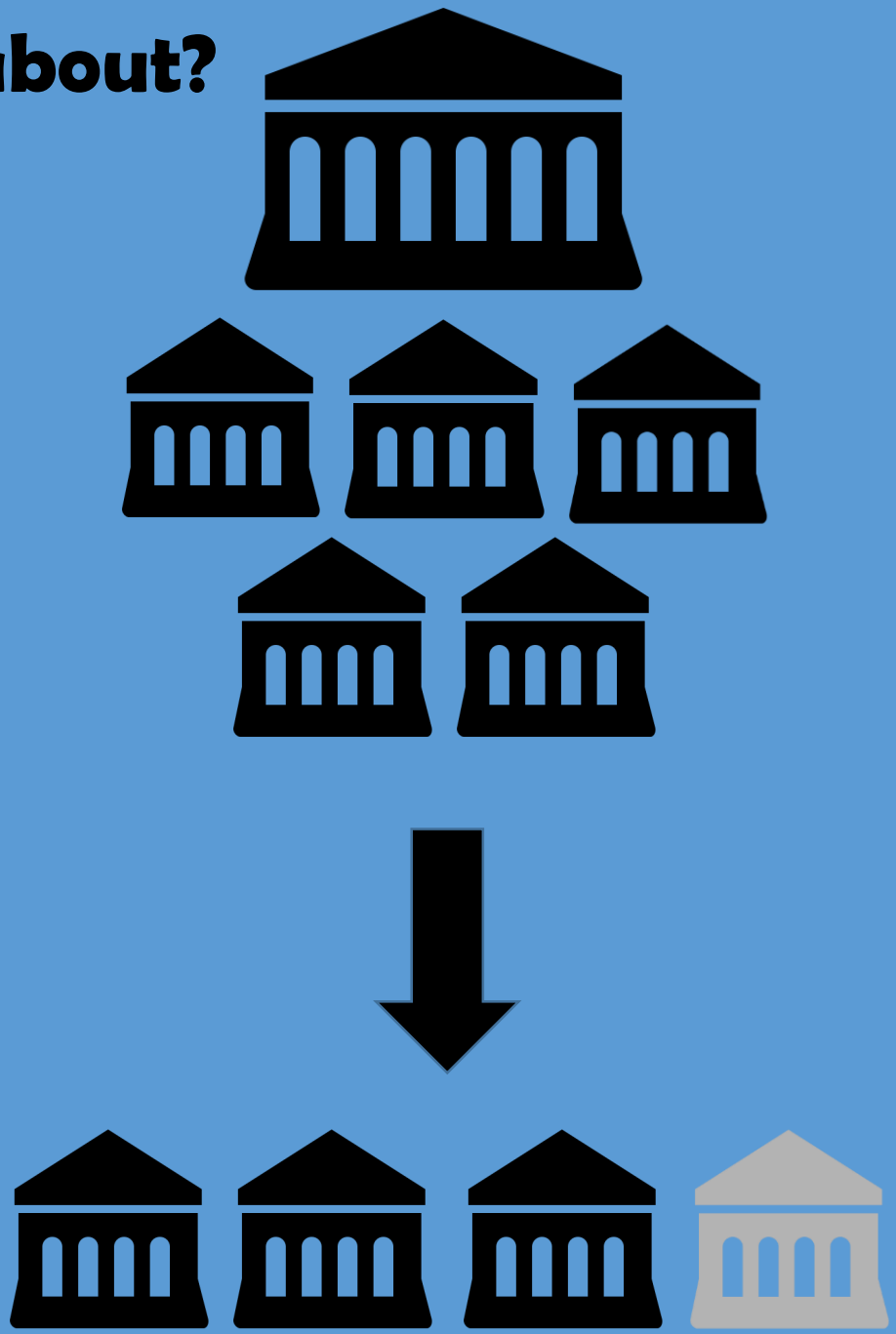
A better deal for Oxfordshire

What is devolution all about?





Why do we need to change local governance?

The current system is confusing for many.

Having two tiers of principle authorities is inefficient.

Creating local unitary councils would link important services such as housing, education and transport.

Too often the current system blocks progress as different authorities have different priorities.

Local unitary councils will deliver services closer to residents, be more responsive and more accountable.

What are the districts proposing?

PwC are conducting a review on behalf of the District Councils. Options that have been or are being considered include 4, 3, 2 and 1 unitary council.

The stated preference in the South of the county is for a new authority covering the geographical area currently administered by Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire.

One option for the new unitary councils.

How would a Combined Authority work?

A Combined Authority brings together all areas of the public sector not just local councils.

Local Enterprise Partnership

NHS Clinical Commission -ing Group

Thames Valley Police

Combined Authority

Northern Oxfordshire Unitary(ies)

Oxford City Unitary

Southern Oxfordshire Unitary

It is not another tier, but rather a formal way of better joint working with shared budgets and decision making.

How will this improve services for the public?

Better protection for vulnerable children and adults and more appropriate services for local areas.

Improving adult social care with genuine integration into NHS commissioning.

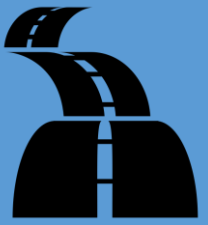
Bringing planning for new housing together with planning for schools, roads and healthcare.

Services provided on a smaller scale, closer to the public. Allowing local difference across Oxfordshire.

Reducing 'bed-blocking' to improve acute care in the NHS and free up resources.

How will this improve services for the public?

More support for our own successful economy in Southern Oxfordshire.



Improving investment in local transport infrastructure including better working with partners outside of Oxfordshire.

Transparent funding of adult and childrens' social care whilst keeping Council Tax as low as possible.

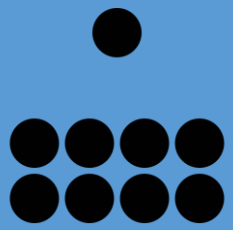
Reducing the number of councillors, and giving local communities a single point of contact.

Continuing successful services such as waste collection, whilst getting to grips with other basic services like grass cutting.

The role for parish and town councils

Enhance the role of parishes to speak up on behalf of residents, particularly on planning matters.

No intention to force parishes to take on costs from the new councils. Partner with parishes only when parishes want to.



Ensuring the independence of parish councils – no requirement to merge or combine to deliver services.

A strong voice for parishes in Neighbourhood Planning and improved decision making involving education and transport.

Isn't one council simpler?

Scale of challenge

- Over 1,000 square miles
- Population set to be over 800,000
- One of the largest unitary authorities in the country
- Size has not provided benefits to OCC to date that protect against service cuts

Distant from communities

- Single strategy appropriate for city and countryside
- Slow to respond to changes and challenges
- Proposals to create smaller areas within single unitary to overcome this issue – effectively recreating districts
- Parishes more distant from decision making or forced to merge in order to be sustainable, losing voice along the way.

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Find out more at:

www.oxfordshire.vision