

Merger with Wiltshire ? inbox x

Oct 1 11:14

Dear Sirs,

I cannot claim to have mastered all the consultation documents. But from what I have read, I have the following particular comments:

1. Although the papers say repeatedly that no decisions have been taken, it seems that a decision has in fact been taken that any merger or increased co-ordination would be with Wiltshire. Why Wiltshire? Of course there will always be different views according to where one is from. But the view from Sherborne will recognise the long border of West Dorset with South Somerset, the fact that our nearest large town Yeovil is in Somerset and that, for the Bridport-Lyme Regis area, Wiltshire is almost a foreign country. Would it not be at least as appropriate to look for a merger in with Somerset and Devon?
2. Enlarging on the previous argument, we need to keep an eye on what alliances are being made by other areas of our life. If county organisations are tending to amalgamate (and this may be a consequence of the 'English devolution' issue), which way is Dorset looking for the future of health, social services, education, transport etc?
3. In particular, there are strong arguments for alliances between the emergency services. I would strongly advocate the development of a 'front office' in each major town covering fire, police, local authority and perhaps ambulance services. This might save the front office in places where police stations are being closed.
4. Your questionnaire contains a battery of questions "About You." I don't mind recording that I am male, age 73, living in Sherborne DT9, that I have no disabilities. But I do not see the relevance of whether I am homosexual; and the ethnic monitoring categories, whether relevant or not, have always been a bit of a mess.

28/10/2014