

The Boundary Committee will now judge these four options, together with options for a Waveney/Great Yarmouth unitary and any other(s) they might think of themselves against the following criteria, as set down by the Secretary of State:

- Affordability
- Broad Cross Section of Support
- Strategic Leadership
- Neighbourhood Empowerment
- Value for Money

The Suffolk Councils have differing views on which option would best meet the needs of Suffolk's residents, although all councils have expressed their opposition to creating a unitary council based on Waveney and Great Yarmouth.

**Q: What are Babergh's preferred options?**

Babergh District Council believes that a unitary structure based on an East/West split is likely to provide the

best overall balance between efficiencies and cost savings and an ability to engage with local communities and achieve real neighbourhood empowerment.

The Council also believes that the interests of residents in the east of the county would be much better served by having a unitary council that includes Ipswich rather than artificially placing the urban and rural parts of East Suffolk in separate unitary areas. As a result, Babergh Councillors have backed the two-unitary option that would create councils for East Suffolk (including Ipswich) and West Suffolk as their first preference, with a single unitary council for the whole of Suffolk as their second preference.

In its submission to the Boundary Committee, Babergh indicated that it would wish to see these two options developed in more detail for comparison with each other, but emphasised that Parish and Town Councils, as well as the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, should be actively engaged in this review.

Full details of Babergh's submission to the Boundary Committee, together with the submissions from all other Suffolk councils can be found on the Boundary Committee's website: <http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk/our-work/suffolk-strrev.cfm> or at [www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk)

**Q: What happens next?**

The Boundary Committee is currently considering the submissions it has received and gathering further information. It will then undertake local consultation over a 12-week period beginning in early July. It is scheduled to make recommendations to the Secretary of State by 31 December 2008.

If the Secretary of State decides to implement new unitary arrangements for Suffolk, these are likely to be in place from April 2010. Babergh District Council will keep residents informed as key decisions are made and will report back in more detail in the next issue of *Babergh Matters!*



# Babergh standard bearers

**G**ot a complaint about a Councillor? If so, it is now even easier to raise a concern. Complaints about the conduct of any Babergh District Councillor or any parish or town councillor operating within Babergh will now be made locally to the Babergh Standards Committee and not the Standards Board For England.

The Committee (above) will decide whether any action needs to be taken under the Babergh Code of Conduct for Councillors. The number to call for further information about filing a complaint is (01473) 825716. Under new chairman John Newton, who is independent of the Council, Babergh is looking at arrangements with Mid

Suffolk District Council so that if the Committee decides not to investigate an allegation, the person who complained can request the Standards Committee of Mid Suffolk to review whether that was the right thing to do or not.. For more information, go to: [www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/councillors](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/councillors) for an A-Z of Councillors.