

### **Additional comments:**

It would surely be better in the long run not to potentially break the link between phone numbers and areas. There are four spare 02x codes that could be used in ways that could encompass the areas mentioned. Strategic freeing up of some 01xx or even 01x combinations could allow for further local changes to 7 or 8 digits.

Particularly in the case of Aberdeen, could this be used as a pilot for the conversion of Scotland to 8-digit numbers? Could Bradford be absorbed into Leeds (0113)? Could additional areas be added to 023 so that Brighton could be brought in? Middlesbrough could probably be incorporated into a new area, possibly including much of North Yorkshire and/or some of County Durham. Milton Keynes would make a good centre for a new 8-digit area.

Education is key with all of these changes - so many people do not understand phone numbers as they currently stand - and I would also suggest reviewing Bournemouth in the light of this idea.

Failing that, local dialling may as well be completely closed - which would be annoying.

**Question 1: Do you agree with our proposals that local dialling should be closed in the Five Area Codes - Aberdeen (01224), Bradford (01274), Brighton (01273), Middlesbrough (01642) and Milton Keynes (01908) - on 1 October 2014?:**

No.

**Question 2: Are you aware of any local or national events that may dilute consumer awareness communications/any other factors suggesting that 1 October 2014 is an unsuitable date/time of year to introduce the proposed changes to local dialling?:**

No - but I think a recoding/renumbering would be better.

**Question 3: Do you have any comments on the proposed modifications to the Numbering Plan set out at Annex 4 and/or on our view as to how the proposed modification meets the relevant legal tests in section 60(2) of the Act?:**

No.