



Local Government Re-organisation Members Task and Finish Group

Proposed Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of this Working Group is to explore and provide support and recommendations on RBC's approach to local government reorganisation, ensuring alignment with national policy and local priorities.

Membership

- Nine Councillors to form a cross-party Task and Finish Group on the request of Cabinet
- Membership to be based on the rules of proportionality as confirmed by the Monitoring Officer
- Chair of the Group to be the Leader of the Council
- Substitutes are allowed
- The quorum for a meeting is any three members of the Task and Finish Group

Frequency of meetings

- It is anticipated that the Group will meet as and when needed between Autumn 2025 and Spring 2028 [presuming the need for the Group continues until Vesting Day].

Terms of Reference

The Task and Finish Group will:

- Receive updates on and provide a sounding board for the development of proposals and implementation plan for local government reorganisation
- Examine evidence provided by the Leader and / or Chief Executive (who are both working with counterparts across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) and provide feedback on key elements such as the potential options for local government in Nottinghamshire, future governance models, financial information and impact, and public communications and engagement feedback
- Act as a critical friend ensuring the needs of Rushcliffe's residents will continue to be met under any new governance arrangements
- Identify areas for consideration and planning to ensure a smooth transition to any new structure once such a structure has been agreed by the Government
- Consider how the Borough's needs and preferences may be met and catered for in future local government arrangements

- Consider what opportunities may arise from Local Government Reorganisation for the benefit of the current Borough's residents and businesses
- Review and provide feedback on what actions the Borough Council and the new unitary authority will need to consider ensuring the continuous service delivery and support for residents throughout the preparatory and transitional phases of Local Government Reorganisation
- Represent the views of Rushcliffe residents ensuring all voices are heard but also taking a responsible role in managing expectations and delivering key messages at a grass roots level
- Consider the potential impacts of Local Government Reorganisation on Rushcliffe residents, communicate these to the Leader and Chief Executive to inform the decision-making process
- Shape the engagement of other councillors in advance of full council decisions and provide updates as required within political group meetings to increase awareness and transparency
- Consider the financial implications of Local Government Reorganisation investigation and transition activities required
- Identify and monitor risks and challenges arising from Local Government Reorganisation and its associated activities

Support and Resources

- The Group will primarily be advised by the Chief Executive who may call upon other officers as required
- Democratic Services will attend meetings and make a note of the key points and actions arising, which will be presented at the next suitable meeting of the Task and Finish Group
- Activity of the Task and Finish Group must be resourced within the existing budgetary framework

Guiding Principles

- Focus on transparency, inclusivity, and evidence-based decision-making.
- Ensure alignment with the council's corporate plan and priorities.
- Promote sustainable, efficient, and equitable governance arrangements.