



Cabinet

Tuesday, 10 March 2026

**Response to Government Consultation on Proposals for
Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire and
Nottingham**

Report of the Chief Executive

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide Leadership,
Councillor N Clarke**

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has launched a statutory consultation to seek views on proposals received following the Secretary of State's invitation to councils in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham to submit proposals for unitary local government for their area. The deadline for responses is 26 March 2026.
- 1.2. This report and appendix set out the Council's proposed response to the consultation.
- 1.3. The response was considered by the Council's cross-party Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Member Task and Finish Group on 23 February 2026. The Group recommends the proposed response to Cabinet for approval for submission.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approves the submission of the Council's response to Government's Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. The Greater Nottinghamshire Proposal for LGR was subject to a comprehensive consultation in its development phase. The proposal was considered by Full Council in November 2025 and recommended to Cabinet, who approved the submission of the proposal to Government. The proposed consultation response is based entirely on, and written in support of, this proposal.
- 3.2. All councils in the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham invitation area are invited to respond to the consultation.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. Cabinet is referred to the Council papers from 20 November 2025, which contain details about the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill and subsequent invitation to the nine Council Leaders in Greater Nottinghamshire, to develop a proposal for LGR and submit this by 28 November 2025.
- 4.2. The November 2025 Council papers also outline the extensive work undertaken by councils across Nottinghamshire to produce an Interim Plan by 21 March 2025, undertake an Options Appraisal, which was reported to Council in July 2025, and to construct a full Proposal for the delivery of LGR in Nottinghamshire by 28 November 2025.
- 4.3. MHCLG's consultation covers the three proposals submitted in response to the Secretary of State's invitation to councils in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham to submit proposals for unitary local government. Which can all be viewed at [Nottingham and Nottinghamshire | LGR](#) The proposals are as follows:
- Proposal from Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council (1b)
 - Proposal from Bassetlaw District Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council (1e)
 - Proposal from Nottingham City Council (Bii).
- 4.4. The consultation invites a closed response (strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree, don't know) to the following statements:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that:

1. the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?
2. the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?
3. the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?
4. this proposal will put local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing, particularly given that some councils in the area are in Best Value intervention and in receipt of exceptional financial support?
5. the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?
6. the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?
7. that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements?
8. the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment.

- 4.5. Consultees are invited to explain responses or provide any other comments in a single free text box. Consultees can provide feedback on each of the three proposals or just one proposal.
- 4.6. The Council's proposed response to the consultation on the proposal from Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council (1b) is set out in Appendix A.
- 4.7. It is not proposed that the Council submits formal responses to the consultations on options 1e and Bii, but rather prioritises supporting proposal 1b and emphasising its strengths.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

The Council could choose not to submit a response to the consultation; however, this would mean missing out on the last opportunity the Council will have to positively influence the future shape of local government in Nottinghamshire and further endorse our proposal, ahead of a decision being made in summer 2026. This option has therefore been discounted.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

There are no risks or uncertainties associated with the submission of our consultation response.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the submission of our consultation response.

7.2. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with the submission of our consultation response.

7.3. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications associated with the submission of our consultation response

7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no Section 17 associated with the submission of our consultation response.

7.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications

There are no Biodiversity Net Gain associated with the submission of our consultation response.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	The Council will continue to champion these priorities as plans for LGR progress.
Quality of Life	
Efficient Services	
Sustainable Growth	

9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approves the submission of the Council's response to Government's Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

For more information contact:	Adam Hill Chief Executive 0115 914 8577 ahill@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	<i>Report to Council 20 March 2025 – English Devolution White Paper</i> <i>Report to Council 17 July 2025 – Local Government Reorganisation Update</i> <i>Report to Council 20 November 2025 – Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Nottinghamshire</i>
List of appendices:	Appendix A - Consultation on the proposal from Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council (1b) – RBC proposed response