

Report of the Interim Chief Executive

Local Government Reorganisation1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to provide Full Council the opportunity to debate the proposals being submitted to government, on 28 November 2025, as part of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Nottinghamshire, and recommend to Cabinet on 27 November 2025 of Broxtowe Borough Council's potential preferred option.

2. Recommendation

Council is asked to:

- 1. RECOMMEND to Cabinet, for consideration at its meeting on 27 November 2025, on whether to accept or reject Proposals 1b, 1e, and 1bii (Nottingham City expanded boundaries) as Broxtowe Borough Council's preferred option.**
- 2. RESOLVE that the Impact Assessment Report, as set out in Appendix D, be submitted by Broxtowe Borough Council as part of this process.**

3. Detail

The Government's guidance on LGR sets out a clear expectation for how councils should prepare and submit proposals. Councils within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire were expected to work collaboratively to develop evidence-based submissions that covers the whole geography. The focus is on joint working and shared analysis, ensuring that any proposed model will deliver stronger, simpler, and more sustainable local government capable of maintaining high-quality service delivery from vesting day. All submissions must demonstrate robust evidence of financial sustainability and governance showing meaningful engagement with residents, staff, and stakeholders to show how local views have informed proposal development.

In Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, councils have developed three potential proposals for future local government arrangements. The Government does not require each individual council to specify a single preferred option at this stage. All proposals are required to be submitted by 28 November 2025. This report provides Members with the proposed submissions in respect of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. These proposals are:

- Option 1b. This proposal places the current authority boundaries of Broxtowe, Gedling and Nottingham City into one Unitary Authority and the remaining districts and County Council as a further Unitary Authority.
- Option 1e. This proposal places the current authority boundaries of Broxtowe, Rushcliffe and Nottingham City into one Unitary Authority and the remaining districts and County Council as a further Unitary Authority.
- Option 1bii. This proposal, also known as the 'extended city boundary option', places the existing Nottingham City boundary and areas from within Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe without taking in all areas into one Unitary Authority. The remaining areas, districts and County Council will make a further Unitary Authority.

All three proposals can be accessed on the Council's website using the link below. A paper copy of each proposal will be circulated to members with the agenda.

[Local Government Reorganisation \(LGR\)](#)

Each proposal will be evaluated by the government based upon six key criteria:

1. Creation of a Single-Tier Authority

Proposals must set out a clear model for a single-tier council covering the whole area, based on sensible economic and geographic boundaries, supported by robust evidence, analysis, and engagement.

2. Scale, Efficiency and Financial Resilience

New councils should generally serve populations of around 500,000+, achieve efficiencies, manage transition costs effectively, and demonstrate how reorganisation will strengthen financial sustainability, particularly in areas with Best Value or Exceptional Financial Support issues.

3. Improved and Sustainable Public Services

Proposals must show how the new structure will improve service quality, avoid fragmentation, and support reform, with careful consideration of major services such as children's services, adult social care, SEND and homelessness.

4. Local Collaboration and Engagement

Proposals should be shaped jointly by councils, reflect local identity, and include clear evidence of public and stakeholder engagement, demonstrating how local views have informed the proposal.

5. Alignment with Devolution

New structures must support or unlock devolution arrangements, including how Combined Authorities or Combined County Authorities would adapt, and ensure sensible population relationships between local and strategic authorities.

6. Stronger Community and Neighbourhood Engagement

Proposals must demonstrate how the new unitary arrangements will enable

meaningful community involvement and strengthen neighbourhood-level governance.

To ensure the Council has had adequate representation, Broxtowe Borough Council Officers have been actively engaged with the process providing relevant information and appropriate challenge to the three proposals. This has been with limitations due to the lack of engagement from the authorities leading on the option 1b and 1bii proposals.

Members will also be aware that the Council was actively involved in the Countywide engagement exercise that was produced independently by Public Perspectives. This exercise received 11,483 responses from residents across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The report is detailed in **Appendix A**. In addition, Public Perspectives have provided a methodology and Clarification Report which is detailed in **Appendix B**.

Broxtowe Borough Council conducted a further exercise to establish the views of residents in relation to options 1b and 1e. At the point of consultation, the details around the option 1bii, Nottingham City expanded boundary, was unclear. The exercise was completed by 12,507 residents, with 71% stating they did not support either option. Further details, and a breakdown of the Broxtowe specific aspect of the Countywide engagement can be found in **Appendix C**.

The Council has developed an Impact Assessment Report on the proposals being provided. This report details the potential direct impact to residents living within Broxtowe should the Borough Council be merged with Nottingham City Council. This report can be found in **Appendix D**

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer has worked with the Nottinghamshire Finance Officers Association (NFOA), in supporting with the financial aspects of the options being appraised. This work was completed in conjunction with the consultants, PwC, and supported by CIPFA. The assumptions made by PwC have been challenged and reasonable assurances have been provided as to transition costs and potential financial savings that could be achieved by LGR.

Further details relating to the financial appraisals for each scheme can be found in the respective option proposals.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council was invited on 5 February 2025 to submit a proposal for unitarisation and local government reorganisation under Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (“the 2007 Act”) across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. This power has been actively exercised under the current government's Devolution Priority Programme, as outlined in the English Devolution White Paper published in December 2024, which sets out a renewed commitment to simplifying local government structures to improve service delivery, accountability, and efficiency. These invitations were issued pursuant to the statutory powers under the 2007 Act, supported by ministerial statements and guidance that establish criteria for assessing proposals, including local support, financial sustainability, and service improvement.

Under section 3(6) of the 2007 Act, the Council may respond to the invitation either by a) making its own proposal in accordance with the invitation; or b) making a proposal, in accordance with the invitation, jointly with any of the other authorities. In any event, the proposal will have some sort of impact on Nottinghamshire authorities, when the proposals come to be considered by the Secretary of State as a whole.

There is no statutory requirement on the Councils to consult the members of the public affected by a proposed reorganisation. However, the Secretary of State's invitation and guidance does state that ‘It is for councils to decide how best to engage locally in a meaningful and constructive way and this engagement activity should be evidenced in your proposal’ and ‘Proposals should include evidence of local engagement, an explanation of the views that have been put forward and how concerns will be addressed’. Engagement in respect of the Councils' proposed preferred option has been undertaken, and the results of that engagement are set out in this report.

The decision is then to be made by the Secretary of State by way of a Structural Changes Order (SCO) being laid, which is to follow only after a period of consultation to be undertaken by the Secretary of State and any response to a request for review made of the Boundary Commission. The SCO will cover the initial transitional arrangements, pending elections to the new local government areas, as well as matters relating to those elections.

The approval of any proposal under the Act is an executive function in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 Section 9D(2). The Executive will, therefore, be required to make a final decision on approving the Council's proposal for submission, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Council, which is a consultee in relation to this matter.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Nil.