

Report of the Chief Executive**Local Government Reorganisation****1. Purpose of Report**

To provide Members with an update on the ongoing preparatory work being undertaken across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in relation to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

LGR is currently at an evaluation phase by the Government following submission of the proposals and subsequent consultation responses. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is reviewing proposals and supporting evidence to inform the Secretary of State's forthcoming "minded to" decision.

As part of this evaluation process, MHCLG officials have undertaken engagement activity with representatives of all local authorities involved in the three proposals for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. This has included an initial "listening meeting", followed by a series of in-person visits to each of the Nottinghamshire proposals.

The visit relating to Proposal Bii took place on 29 April 2026. The visits relating to Proposal 1b and Proposal 1e were held on 6 May 2026, with both proposals coordinating activity on the same day to support efficient engagement with officials.

These sessions were designed to provide an opportunity for representatives of the councils involved in each proposal to present their respective cases, respond to questions, and further clarify key aspects of their submissions.

Alongside the Government-led evaluation, all nine local authorities across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham continue to work collaboratively on a shared programme of activity.

This work is structured around nine thematic workstreams, focused on data collection and analysis to support the LGR process. The outputs from these workstreams are intended to provide a consistent and robust evidence base and enable preparation for implementation once a decision has been made.

As part of preparations for implementation, Nottinghamshire County Council has appointed an Implementation Director for LGR. This role has assumed

responsibility for the Programme Management Office (PMO) and is beginning to shape the next phase of work.

The County Council's Implementation Director is in the process of developing a structure for a centralised LGR implementation team to support Phase 1 of the programme. The Council has not currently committed to this next phase of work and further details on the structure, scope, and governance of this team will be brought to Cabinet in the future. This will include consideration of any implications and potential risks for the Council.

In parallel, Nottingham City Council has also recruited its own LGR Director, who is expected to have commenced in post by the time of the Cabinet meeting. Further updates will be provided on how the two director roles, and their respective organisations, will work collaboratively to support delivery of the LGR programme.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive were as follows:

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer continues to work with the Nottinghamshire Finance Officers Association (NFOA) on LGR matters, having previously supported the NFOA with the financial aspects of the options submitted in November 2025. The earlier work was completed in conjunction with the consultants, PwC, and supported by CIPFA. The assumptions made by PwC were challenged and reasonable assurances have been provided as to transition costs and potential financial savings that could be achieved by LGR.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer 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

There were no comments from the Human Resources Manager.

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

It is probably too early at this stage to make any firm comments until the situation affecting members of staff are fully known. Regular engagement with staff to make them aware of progress and to seek their views on these important proposals is essential to maintaining good staff morale moving forward. We do accept that as the LGR progresses then the implications on staff will be clearer and then we feel that relevant feedback from Unison will thus be provided.

8. Climate Change Implications

Not applicable.

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.