

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

To provide Members with an update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail**Government Position**

On 7 September 2026, the Government announced that a pause had been placed on the implementation of the LGR decisions announced in July 2026 while it undertakes a wider review of the LGR programme. In addition to this, the Secretary of State announced that the decisions made in the areas of Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock; Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton; Norfolk; and Suffolk have been withdrawn.

The Government has stipulated that the pause does not represent a decision to abandon LGR. The Government remains committed to delivering LGR and intends to move forward with implementation once the review has been completed and the future approach has been determined.

The review is intended to ensure that the LGR programme and individual proposals are robust and deliver the Government's objectives. Further direction, including the timetable and next steps for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, is expected from MHCLG following the review. However, there have been no specific time frames provided for the completion of the review.

During the pause, councils have been advised to cease activity specifically focused on implementing the existing LGR decision, while continuing cross-cutting activity that remains useful irrespective of the eventual outcome.

A copy of the letter from the Minister for Local Government, Devolution and Regional Growth, outlining the announcement and its key details, is provided in **Appendix 1**.

May 2027 Elections

As part of the Government's approach during the review period, the May 2027 local elections will proceed on existing council boundaries and arrangements.

This means that the usual borough and district council elections will take place in May 2027. Existing councils will therefore continue to operate and exercise their democratic functions during the review period.

The Chief Executive has established a series of election planning meetings to ensure appropriate preparation for the 2027 Borough elections.

Proposed Approach for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

It has been agreed by the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Chief Executives that the nine councils will continue to work together during the pause, but with a change in the basis and purpose of that work.

Joint activity will move from an implementation-focused programme based on a specific LGR outcome to a neutral and outcome-independent programme. This means that:

- Work specifically designed to implement the previously announced LGR outcome will be paused;
- Councils will continue to collaborate where there is clear value in doing so.
- Shared evidence, data and analysis will continue to be developed and maintained;
- Work on areas such as finance, services, workforce, assets, contracts, ICT, risks and dependencies can continue where it is relevant to any potential future outcome;
- Joint officer work will not assume or promote a particular future council structure or geography; and
- Each council will retain its own democratic decision-making processes and individual position on LGR.

This approach is consistent with MHCLG guidance and recognises that the Government intends to return to implementation following the review.

Request for Reimbursement of Costs

At its meeting on 8 September 2026, Cabinet resolved that the Leader of the Council would write to the Secretary of State following the announcement to suspend ongoing activity relating to the LGR decision issued by the then Secretary of State in July 2026.

The letter was submitted on 17 September 2026 and sets out the costs incurred by the Council in progressing LGR-related activities. The correspondence seeks reimbursement of £250,000, reflecting consultation costs and officer time incurred since the commencement of the LGR process in December 2024. A copy of the letter is provided at **Appendix 2**.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

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

This report provides an overview of the Government's recent announcement in respect of the pause of LGR in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. There are no specific financial implications to report at this stage, although the cost of LGR and its impact on this Council continues to be carefully monitored.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer were as follows:

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.

8. Human Resources Implications

There were no comments from the Human Resources Manager.

9. 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.

10. Climate Change Implications

Not applicable.

11. 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.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.