

Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	23 February 2026
Title of Report	Local Government Reorganisation – Government Consultation on Proposals for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland This is not a Key Decision and is not on the Forward Plan This is an Urgent Report.
Lead Member	Cllr. Ben Taylor - Leader of the Council
Report Author	Chief Executive
Strategic Themes	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

1. Explanation for Urgency

- 1.1 This report has not been included in the last Forward Plan. The matter has become apparent since the publication of the Forward Plan and due to the limited time period for the Consultation it is necessary to consider this report at this meeting. It is impracticable to defer the decision on this report until after the operative date of the next Forward Plan on which it could appear. Accordingly, the General Exception Procedure contained in Part 4 Section 2 Paragraph 10 of the Constitution has been invoked to enable its consideration. The Scrutiny Commissioners have been informed and a public notice has been published on the Council's website and displayed at the Council Offices.

2. What is this report about?

- 2.1 This report provides a statutory consultation response to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Consultation on the Proposals put forward by Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and the District and Boroughs and Rutland County Council in relation to Local Government Reorganisation.
- 2.2 The report seeks confirmation of the response for submission.

3. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive

- 3.1 That the Consultation response detailed in Appendix A is agreed and formally submitted to MHCLG as Cabinet's formal response to the Consultation.

4. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 4.1 The Government is required to consult on the proposals put forward in each area. It is important for the views of Blaby District Council's Cabinet to be taken into account.

5. Matters to consider

5.1 Background

As members are aware Leicestershire has a two-tier system of local government whilst Leicester City Council and Rutland County Council are unitary authorities. The government is proposing to establish unitary authorities in all areas and as such invited proposals for Local Government Reorganisation.

In Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, the invitations were sent to all Districts and Boroughs as well as Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and Rutland County Council.

The invitation was issued under Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act). It invited the councils to submit a proposal for a single tier of local government, which could take the form of any of the types of proposal provided for by the 2007 Act:

- Type A – a single tier of local government covering the whole of the county concerned.
- Type B – a single tier of local government covering an area that is currently a district, or two or more districts.
- Type C – a single tier of local government covering the whole of the county concerned, or one or more districts in the county; and one or more relevant adjoining areas.
- Combined proposal – a proposal that consists of two or more Type B proposals, two or more Type C proposals, or one or more Type B proposals and one or more Type C proposals, but not as alternatives.

The invitation specified that any councils responding must have regard to guidance, including six criteria for unitary local government and other matters that should be taken into account when formulating a proposal.

Councils were asked where possible to work together collaboratively but recognised that more than one proposal may come forward for a geographical area.

The proposals received by MHCLG by the deadline of 28 November 2025 from Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland can be found on the following links.

- [Leicester City Council](#)
- [Leicestershire County Council](#)
- [Leicestershire Districts and Boroughs and Rutland County Council](#)

Option 1

Leicester City Council propose 2 unitary councils. This includes a request to split existing district council areas.

- **Expanded City:** Leicester, Oadby and Wigston, plus 16 parishes from Blaby, 11 whole parishes and 1 part parish from Charnwood and 7 whole parishes, plus 5 part parishes from Harborough
- **Unitary Authority 2:** The remainder of Blaby and Charnwood and Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire and Rutland

Option 2

Leicestershire County Council propose 2 unitary councils:

- **Leicestershire:** Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire, Oadby and Wigston, and Rutland
- **Leicester City** to remain unchanged

Option 3

Blaby District Council, the other Districts and Boroughs and Rutland County Council proposed 3 unitary councils.

- **North:** Charnwood, North West Leicestershire, Melton, Rutland
- **South:** Blaby, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Oadby and Wigston
- **Leicester City** to remain unchanged

The 2007 Act requires that, before a proposal for local government reorganisation can be implemented, there must first be a consultation. In addition to the Councils within the area, the government is consulting with neighbouring councils, health providers and the police along with business, voluntary and community sector and educational bodies. In addition, as Leicester City's proposal requires boundary changes the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has been consulted.

The Consultation is also open for public consultation and invites residents, town and parish councils, businesses and the voluntary and community sector to comment on the 3 proposals.

The Consultation questions are in Appendix A alongside proposed responses, each of the three proposals asks the same questions.

5.2 Proposal(s)

To approve the wording and consultation response as detailed in Appendix A and submit the response to MHCLG.

5.3 Relevant Consultations

Senior Leadership Team

5.4 Significant Issues

In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern as a direct response to this report.

6. Environmental impact

There is no Environmental Impact as a direct result of this report. No Net Zero and Climate Impact Assessment (NZCIA) is required for this report.

7. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

7.1 There are no costs or opportunities arising directly from the report, the financial implications with respect to Local Government Reorganisation have been particularised in the Budget Papers and in the North City South Proposal.

8. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

8.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Failure to submit a response to the Consultation means that the Cabinet position is not taken into account by the Minister.	Approval and submission of the response as drafted at Appendix A

9. Other options considered

9.1 No other option was considered appropriate as responding to the Consultation fully enables the opinion of Cabinet to be put forward for consideration by Ministers.

10. Appendix

10.1 Appendix A – Proposed Consultation Response

11. Background paper(s)

11.1 [North, City, South proposal for Leicestershire and Rutland](#)

12. Report author's contact details

Julia Smith Chief Executive
Julia.smith@blaby.gov.uk