

Report to: Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee – 5 February

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Report Summary	
Report Title	Local Government Reorganisation in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
Purpose of Report	To enable the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee to consider the latest position in respect of local government reorganisation following the submission to Government in November 2025.
Recommendations	That the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee note the progress update provided in respect of local government reorganisation.
Reason for Recommendations	<p>This is in line with the Committee's role to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) oversee the plans for, and impact of, Local Government Reorganisation within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire; and b) liaise with and advise the Council's Cabinet, Audit & Accounts Committee, Policy & Performance Improvement Committee and other committees so all Members are kept informed and provide an opportunity for them to input their views on LGR.

1.0 **Background**

- 1.1 At a meeting on 26 November, Cabinet were asked to endorse the submission of a final proposal for a new unitary structure of Local Government for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. All Members of the Council were also invited to attend a presentation on the content of the Final Proposal held on 18 November 2025.
- 1.2 Newark & Sherwood District Council, along with Bassetlaw, Gedling and Mansfield submitted the [north-south proposal](#) to government on 28 November.
- 1.3 The north-south proposal (option 1e) would see the creation of two new unitary authorities:
 - Sherwood Forest (North Nottinghamshire) – comprising Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Gedling, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood.
 - Nottingham and South Nottinghamshire (South Nottinghamshire) – comprising Broxtowe, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe.

1.4 There were two other proposals submitted in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire:

Option 1b: This option is supported by Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council. This proposal recommends the creation of two new unitary councils:

- Nottingham Council – including Broxtowe, Gedling, and Nottingham City.
- Nottinghamshire Council – including Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield, Newark and Sherwood, and Rushcliffe.

Option 1bii: In the interim submission feedback, the Government indicated to councils that it would consider boundary reviews as part of final submissions where appropriate. Nottingham City Council chose to pursue this option. This 1bii recommends the creation of two new unitary councils:

- Southwest - Parts of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe combined with Nottingham City.
- North and East - Parts of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe combined with Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood.

2.0 Proposal /Options Considered

2.1 Since submitting proposals in November, we, along with other councils have begun focusing on the subsequent phases of work and planning the steps required between now and government decision.

2.2 There are also activities underway relating to the upcoming government consultation and a final opportunity to present our case, reinforce key messages, and highlight the most important elements of our proposal to MHCLG.

2.3 Statutory Consultation

2.3.1 As Members know, in the criteria set out from the Secretary of State, the fourth criteria outlined that “proposals should show how councils in the area have sought to work together in coming to a view that meets local needs and is informed by local views.” In August 2025, all nine councils worked collaboratively to gather public views on the future structure of local government through a shared engagement survey. The feedback from this survey helped to shape and form as evidence in our final proposal

2.3.2 Furthermore, in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Secretary of State must consult affected local authorities and other appropriate persons before implementing any plans. The Government’s statutory consultation is expected to launch in early February, with the process running for several weeks. The purpose of the consultation is to gather further evidence from these groups and other interested parties. Although it is not a public consultation, feedback from residents and businesses is welcomed and will be considered. It is not a popularity exercise or referendum; rather, it seeks informed views on the extent to which each proposal meets the Government’s established criteria.

- 2.3.3 Based on the approach used in previous LGR consultations in Surrey and the Devolution Priority Programme areas, we expect the consultation to pose separate questions for each proposal. Each proposal will be assessed against the Government's six criteria, with respondents asked whether they agree that the proposal meets each one. A single free-text box will also be available for respondents to explain their answers and provide any additional comments.
- 2.3.4 MHCLG has provided an initial list of statutory consultees (**Appendix A**), and we are working with them to ensure that all relevant parties are identified and contact details provided. There are a broad range of organisations across health, education, business, the voluntary sector, and other public sector and national bodies.
- 2.3.5 In addition to these statutory consultees, we are compiling a list of non-statutory consultees and will communicate with them directly to support wider engagement in the consultation.
- 2.3.6 The consultation will be promoted through a neutral joint Nottingham and Nottinghamshire [dedicated LGR website](#) and other existing communication channels, including social media.
- 2.3.7 The consultation will be hosted online, although paper and email submissions will also be accepted. To maximise accessibility, paper copies will be available in council buildings and libraries, and proactive communication will be undertaken to encourage responses from named consultees and other key stakeholders.
- 2.3.8 Engagement with other key stakeholders:
- **Staff drop-in sessions – February/ March**
All staff will shortly be invited to attend a further drop-in session presentation with the Chief Executive, either in person or online. These sessions offer an opportunity to hear directly about the latest developments in LGR, ask questions, and share feedback. In addition, staff emails and newsletters continue to provide updates on decisions and activities, and signpost staff to further information e.g. the internal LGR hub.
 - **Town and Parish Council briefings – 26 February and 2 March**
The Council briefed town and parish councils prior to submitting the final proposals. Further briefing sessions have now been arranged to share updates and to address any questions or concerns at this stage.

2.4 MHCLG Listening Meetings

- 2.4.1 MHCLG will be holding dedicated one-hour virtual meetings for each proposal submitted. Preparations for these sessions are underway, with meetings expected to take place in late February or early March. These meetings will provide an opportunity for the 1e CEOs to outline our proposal, emphasise any key points, and raise questions directly with MHCLG.

2.5 Next Phase of Work - Transition Planning

2.5.1 **MHCLG checklist of preparatory activities**

To help guide councils with a starting point of what the next steps are after submission, MHCLG has shared a list (Appendix B) that has been developed with input from sector advisers, Local Partnerships and the Local Government Association. It is based on current and previous experience of LGR and is intended to be iterative rather than exhaustive.

2.5.2 **NSDC workshop**

At a workshop on 19 January, the Council will review and populate the checklist provided by MHCLG, confirming resourcing and status for each activity. Alongside this, we aim to identify other 'no-regret actions' that can be progressed ahead of the decision point, focusing on tasks that are not dependent on the option ultimately selected. This work will feed into a wider workshop, as outlined below.

2.5.3 **Nottingham and Nottinghamshire workshop**

LGR representatives from each of the nine Councils are due to attend a meeting hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council on 26 January. The aim is to collectively identify priorities, define the approach, and outline resourcing needs to inform recommendations for CEOs consideration.

2.5.4 **Capacity and capability to deliver**

Across the City and County, all Councils are giving consideration as to how best to resource the transition to the new structure of local government. An appropriate balance needs to be found between day-to-day service delivery, progressing major capital schemes and preparing for the new Council.

2.5.5 Discussions are underway within NSDC and with partner Councils to address this and an update will be provided at Committee.

2.5.6 **LGR Working Group**

Whilst the Committee is an appropriate forum for oversight of LGR activity and updating members in a public setting, some aspects of the transition to unitary status will need detailed and on occasions confidential discussions. One obvious example being that related to staffing arrangements. It is therefore proposed to establish a Working Group that can be convened on an as and when required basis comprising the Chair and Vice of the Committee and all Group Leaders.

2.6 Timeline

- 2.6.1 The Committee may also wish to consider next steps in accordance with the timetable below:

Key milestones:	By when
All councils work on transition planning	November 2025 – vesting day
Government launches statutory consultation for several weeks	Early February – Late March 2026
MHCLG holds “listening meeting” with representatives of each proposal submitted	Late February/ Early March 2026
Decision by Government	Before Summer recess 2026
Elections for shadow authority	May 2027
Appointment of CEOs	June 2027
New unitary authority vesting day	April 2028

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	NA	Equality & Diversity	NA
Human Resources	NA	Human Rights	NA
Legal	NA	Data Protection	NA
Digital & Cyber Security	NA	Safeguarding	NA
Sustainability	NA	Crime & Disorder	NA
LGR	NA	Tenant Consultation	NA

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Cabinet 26 November: Local Government Reorganisation in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire – Final Proposal](#)