

Report to: Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee – 18 June 2026

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Report Summary	
Report Title	Local Government Reorganisation in Nottingham & 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the progress update provided in respect of local government reorganisation; and b) as outlined in section 2.3, agree the proposed scoping document and nominations from the committee to the LGR Working Group – Newark & Sherwood’s Legacy.
Reason for Recommendations	This is in line with the Committee’s role to: <ol 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.

1.5 Full proposal, appendices and summaries are available here: [Proposals | LGR](#)

2.0 Progress Update

2.1 MHCLG in person visit

On 6 May 2026, representatives from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) undertook an in-person visit to Nottinghamshire as part of their consideration of LGR proposals. The visit was jointly coordinated by councils supporting Option 1e and Option 1b. Our Chief Executive and Business Manager – Planning Policy with officers from Bassetlaw District Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council (1e) Rushcliffe Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council (1b) facilitated a shared bus tour and group discussion and Q&A. The in-person format provided MHCLG with the opportunity to:

- See first-hand the geographical considerations relevant to both proposals.
- Engage directly with officers on the practical implications of reorganisation.

Overall, the visit formed part of MHCLG’s wider evidence-gathering and engagement. The day was received positively; and reflected a coordinated approach, while ensuring that both options were able to present their respective cases clearly. Bii had a separate visit with MHCLG on 29 April.

2.2 During this visit, MHCLG also advised colleagues that the Government will shortly issue a letter to councils. This letter was issued to Chief Executives on 19 May, and it outlined a number of questions that need a response to inform the draft Structural Changes Order (SCO).

By 16 June, views are requested on preferred governance arrangements for implementation, membership composition and political balance, and leadership roles. Input is also requested on the structure of the Implementation Team, arrangements for the first elections (including the Returning Officer), and whether parish council elections should be aligned with new unitary elections. Further detail is required on council naming, and any updated proposals or rationale for the number of councillors in each new authority.

At a later stage, once the Government’s decision is expected to have been received, we will be asked by 17 August to confirm proposed warding arrangements that best align with Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) guidance.

Councils are encouraged to work together to agree representations for each proposal and we can respond singly, jointly, or as a collective. The letter also reiterated that it is ultimately for the Secretary of State to decide what to include in the legislation.

At the time of preparing this report, consideration is being given to the response to MHCLG, and an update will be provided to Committee.

2.3 LGR Working Group – Newark & Sherwood’s Legacy

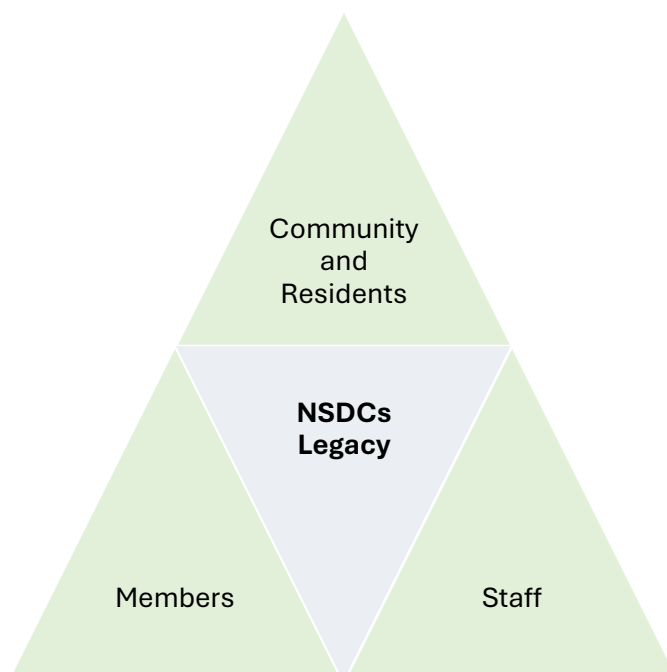
As set out at the last Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee, 16 April February 2026, a members and officers working group is to be established and include consideration of Newark & Sherwood District Council’s legacy as the authority transitions to a new unitary council in 2028.

The role and scope of the group is summarised as follows, with more detail available in **Appendix 1**.

- Recognise Newark & Sherwood District Council’s legacy ahead of LGR.
- Capture key learning, achievements and milestones from the Council’s 50-year history, including past administrations.
- Reflect how legacy is experienced by members and staff, including organisational identity and culture.
- Explore proportionate ways to mark, celebrate or record legacy.
- Develop recommendations that support a positive transition to new unitary councils.

It is proposed to convene the first meeting of the Working Group in September 2026, to explore this in more detail and share a report back with recommendations to this Committee early in 2027.

The working group will be structured around three clear strands, as outlined in the image below.



2.4 Strategic Risk

The Council has established a dedicated strategic risk for LGR to oversee the potential impacts of transition, including governance, service delivery, workforce, finance, digital and community outcomes. The risk has been developed with cross-directorate input and includes clearly defined triggers, impacts and mitigating actions. The LGR strategic risk is regularly reviewed to ensure issues are identified early and mitigations remain current.

A copy of the LGR strategic risk will also be shared with the Audit and Accounts Committee in July as part of wider assurance and oversight arrangements.

2.5 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire LGR programme

Councils continue to work collaboratively during this time of “no regret,” progressing activities that can be progressed ahead of the decision point and are not dependent on the option ultimately selected.

2.6 As set out previously, there are nine thematic workstreams that have been established so far. The Council has representation on each of the priority workstreams and is leading or co-leading two workstreams.

For this phase of work, the focus of these groups is baseline and discovery, including collating and sharing scoped data sets.

2.7 The existing Programme Management Office (PMO) structure and governance arrangements have been operating on an interim basis. As we move into the initial transition phase, agreement has been reached to establish more formalised partnership working and a Portfolio Management Office (PMO) that is ‘implementation ready’ in anticipation of the minded-to decision expected in July. This reset also includes refining the programme governance and the development of a comprehensive plan through to vesting day and beyond. The first wave of recruitment, covering 15 posts, is scheduled to be advertised internally week commencing 25 May.

3.0 The Timeline

3.1 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
In person visit with MHCLG	6 May 2026
Minded to letter from MHCLG	End of May 2026
Recruitment to partnership PMO	May – July 2026
Decision by Government	By Summer recess 2026
Structural changes order – Legislation laid in Parliament	Autum/winter 2026
Legislation made, subject to Parliamentary approval	Early 2027
Elections for shadow authority	May 2027
Appointment of CEOs/Statutory Officers	June/July 2027
New unitary authority vesting day	April 2028

4.0 **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](#)