



**Dear Partner**

**27 October 2025**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

You will have no doubt heard about the plans for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a brief explanation of what is happening, the options for change, the timelines and next steps and Bassetlaw District Council's current position.

In December 2024, central government announced plans for the biggest reorganisation of local government in England in over 50 years. Their proposal is to replace all two-tier councils with single-tier unitary authorities, meaning one council in the area will handle all local government services with the aim of making governance simpler and more efficient.

In Nottinghamshire, local services are currently delivered to 824,700 residents under a two-tier council structure. Nottinghamshire County Council oversees county wide services such as social care, education and road maintenance, while the seven district and borough councils are responsible for local services including waste collection, planning, housing, homelessness and leisure centres. Residents are also represented by two sets of Councillors.

Nottingham City Council is an existing unitary authority, which means that it delivers all the services above, in its geographical area, to a population of 323,700 residents.

In most parts of the county there are also town and parish councils that make up a third layer of local government. These provide very localised services at village or parish level such as managing community halls, cemeteries and allotments. Town and

parish councils are not directly affected by LGR, however, they may have the opportunity to take on different services in the future as a result.

The government has asked two-tier areas to work together and submit proposals to replace their current system with single-tier unitary councils based on populations of around 500,000.

Reorganisation could bring a number of advantages for our residents and partner organisations such as:

- **Greater accountability:** one Council responsible for all services.
- **Stronger alignment of services:** joined up planning supporting more coordinated responses to local needs.
- **Simplified engagement:** a single authority could offer a clear point of contact for partnership working and funding.
- **Greater resource efficiency:** reductions in bureaucracy could free up capacity to invest in frontline services and innovation.

We also acknowledge that change of this scale brings risks and challenges, including:

- **Transition disruption:** Reorganisation can create uncertainty and short term disruption during the implementation phase.
- **Loss of local focus:** there is a concern that a larger authority could be more remote from the specific needs of local communities.
- **Impact on existing relationships:** Changes in structure may affect established partnerships and local networks.

All councils across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have been working together on proposals to restructure local government. In line with government guidance to use existing district areas as the basis for reorganisation, two core options have been proposed that would see the nine existing councils in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire be replaced by two unitary councils.

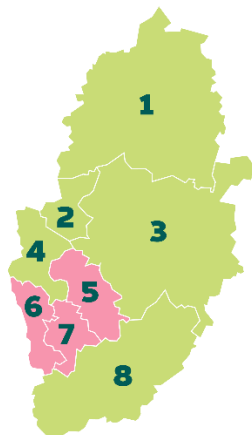
The core options include the following:

**1b.** A new unitary authority combining Nottingham City, Broxtowe, and Gedling, with a second new unitary authority for the rest of Nottinghamshire.

**1e.** A new unitary authority combining Nottingham City, Broxtowe, and Rushcliffe, with a second new unitary authority for the rest of Nottinghamshire.

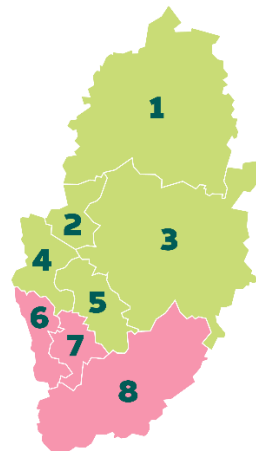
The following maps highlight the boundaries of the two core options.

**1b** Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City + Broxtowe + Gedling



- Key**
- 1 - Bassetlaw
  - 2 - Mansfield
  - 3 - Newark and Sherwood
  - 4 - Ashfield
  - 5 - Gedling
  - 6 - Broxtowe
  - 7 - Nottingham
  - 8 - Rushcliffe

**1e** Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City + Broxtowe + Rushcliffe

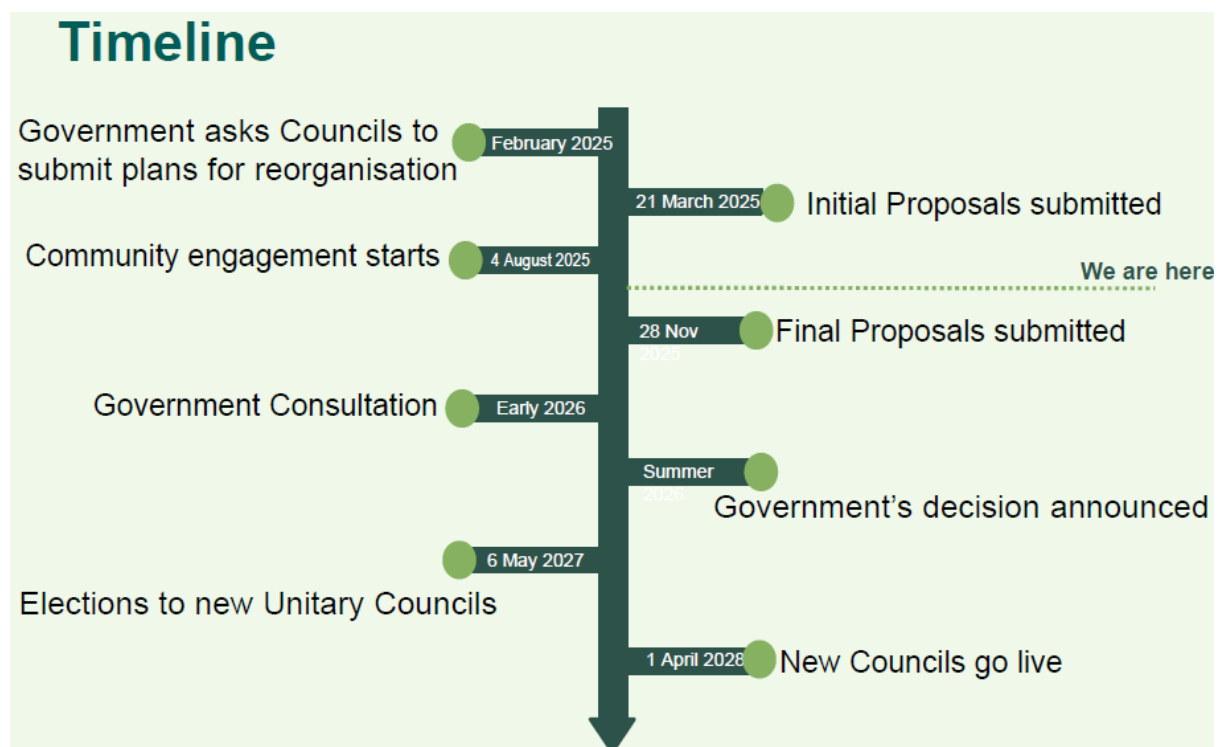


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Nottingham City Council is also developing a boundary review option to split the boundaries of the existing districts around the city.

The final proposals have to be submitted to government by the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and they will undertake statutory consultation in the new year.

The graphic below shows the government’s current timeline:



The current situation is that the County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council are supporting **Option 1b**. Ashfield are yet to determine their position and Broxtowe do not support reorganisation. Bassetlaw together with, Gedling, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood are supporting **Option 1e**.

We believe that the north/south geographical split of **Option 1e** makes more sense. It aligns more closely with strategic development sites and will support the East Midlands Mayoral ambitions for growth and skills. It builds on natural, organisational and transport links. Certainly, from a Bassetlaw perspective we believe a new council that would stretch from South Yorkshire to Leicestershire would just be too large a footprint to create any cohesion.

A joint engagement exercise-regarding LGR received around 11,500 responses. This is considerably higher than many other areas that are going through the process. In common with other areas, most respondents indicated that they were happy with the ways things are and do not wish to see change. If reorganisation is to go ahead, people wanted new councils to get the basics right - clean streets, safe communities, good roads and pavements - and to listen to local people. People also told us how important it is to recognise the differences between urban and rural communities. **Option 1e** received more support than **Option 1b**, with around a third of respondents viewing it positively or as the better of the two, particularly for its clearer North-South split and perceived geographic logic.

I trust the above information provides a helpful summary of the options for change and the key timelines ahead. If you or your colleagues would like to find out more about the Local Government Reorganisation options in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire or have concerns about its potential impact or wish to discuss the opportunities to improve partnership working and service delivery to our local communities, then please get in touch with **Stephen Brown (Head of Local Government Reorganisation)** [stephen.brown@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.brown@bassetlaw.gov.uk) I would be delighted to meet with you to discuss further.

Yours faithfully



**David Armiger**  
**Chief Executive**