



Jim McMahon OBE MP  
Minister for Local Government and English Devolution  
Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Via email  
[LGreorganisation@communities.gov.uk](mailto:LGreorganisation@communities.gov.uk)

21 March, 2025

Dear Minister,

**Re: Local Government Re-organisation – two Unitary Council model for Greater Lincolnshire**

We write in response to your letter dated 5 February, 2025, inviting proposals for a single tier of local government in Greater Lincolnshire. In response to your letter, we have brought forward a proposal which we believe best meets the criteria and will deliver the optimal outcomes for Greater Lincolnshire and maximise the region's contribution to the UK's growth. The proposal involves two unitary councils of roughly equal population size, working in tandem with the Mayoral County Combined Authority to serve the whole of the Greater Lincolnshire region.

District and Borough Councils in Lincolnshire have a proud history of working together collaboratively to deliver the best outcomes and value for money for local residents. This has included the creation of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, the largest cross-council partnership of its kind in the country. The partnership is already delivering £42million of financial savings to the public purse. It brings together three sovereign councils to deliver for local residents and demonstrates our genuine commitment to working together to achieve value for money. It is also demonstrated by our recent work with the County Council to agree a Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire, which has further been reflected in our collaborative approach to future structures of local government in the County.

Our proposal is for two unitary authorities as follows:

**Northern Lincolnshire Unitary Council:** Covering the areas of North Lincolnshire Unitary Council (170,000), North East Lincolnshire Unitary Council (160,000), West Lindsey District Council (97,000) and City of Lincoln Council (104,000).

Total population size = 531,000

**Southern Lincolnshire Unitary Council:** Covering the areas of North Kesteven District Council (120,000), South Kesteven District Council (144,000), Boston Borough Council (70,000), East Lindsey District Council (145,000) and South Holland District Council (95,000).

Total population size= 574,000

We believe that this model offers the best solution to unitarisation in Greater Lincolnshire, meeting the government's requirements and offering value for money and opportunities for effective public service delivery and community cohesion across our region.

We have set out how our model meets the criteria provided by government in the following pages. We intend to develop a further detailed submission in line with the timescales set out in your correspondence.

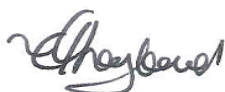
Following their own options appraisal, we understand that West Lindsey District Council will also be including the model we propose in their own submission to government.

East Lindsey and South Holland District Councils are ready to have a conversation with MHCLG on resourcing a delivery team to develop the 2 Unitary proposal.

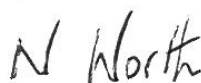
Thank you for taking the time to consider our interim plan.

We look forward to working with you to deliver a single tier of local government in Greater Lincolnshire.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Craig Leyland  
Leader, East Lindsey District Council  
[Craig.leyland@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:Craig.leyland@e-lindsey.gov.uk)



Councillor Nick Worth  
Leader, South Holland District Council  
[Nickworth@sholland.gov.uk](mailto:Nickworth@sholland.gov.uk)