

MOTION ON NOTICE

Full Council | Tuesday, 17 July 2025

Local Government Reorganisation

This Council notes the Government's u-turn last week on welfare reforms, which follows a number of other u-turns including winter fuel payments.

This Council notes that Labour did not reference abolishing two-tier local government in its manifesto and therefore has no mandate to proceed with this fundamental change.

This Council believes that local district and borough councils provide essential discretionary services including economic development, community safety, welfare support and town centre events amongst others. These will be at risk, should districts be scrapped and merged with upper-tier councils, whose budgets face ever increasing pressures because of the failure of successive Conservative and Labour Governments to properly address social services and SEND funding shortfalls.

The economic case for moving to unitary councils is not proven, with estimated costs of transitions running into many £millions and no clear evidence from areas, where councils have moved to unitary status, that substantial savings are being made.

It is also clear that across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, there is no consensus on how local government reform should proceed with competing bids, and disagreement over city expansion, with this Council's Leadership expressing deep concerns about areas being moved into the city without the consent of the communities affected.

Proceeding with local government reform will be divisive, will cause huge disruption for residents, and will mean Councils are focused on managing transitions rather than delivering services. Therefore, this Council calls on Sir Keir Starmer and the Labour Government to perform a U-turn on Local Government Reform and drop its plans.

The Council instructs its Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister to set out the Council's position and to communicate this with other local authorities in Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland.

Councillor Samia Z Haq

Proposer

Councillor Lee A Bentley

Seconded

The above motion was duly received by the Legal & Electoral Services Manager / Monitoring Officer on 4 July 2025 in accordance with Rule 14, Section 1 of Part 4 of the Constitution of the Council.