



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Jim McMahon OBE MP

*Minister of State for Local Government and
English Devolution*

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: MC2025/03362

Sir Peter Soulsby,
City Mayor for Leicester City Council

Councillor Deborah Taylor
Acting Leader of Leicestershire County
Council

Councillor Gale Waller,
Leader of Rutland County Council

5 February 2025

Dear Mayor Soulsby, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Waller

On 16 December 2024 I wrote to you advising that I was considering laying secondary legislation to postpone local council elections from May 2025 to May 2026, only in those areas where I am certain that postponing the election is necessary to help the area to deliver both reorganisation and devolution to the most ambitious timeframe – either through the Devolution Priority Programme or where reorganisation is necessary to unlock devolution or open up new devolution options.

Thank you for your subsequent letter to me setting out your request for the postponement of elections scheduled for 2025. I am very conscious of the work you would have undertaken locally to support such a letter and am grateful for your commitment and rapid engagement. I have carefully considered your request, however I have decided not to agree to the postpone this year's election to Leicestershire County Council. There was rightly a very high bar for postponing any local election and as outlined above, the Government's position is that all local elections should go ahead unless delaying an election is necessary to deliver both reorganisation and devolution to the most ambitious timeframe.

Today I provided an update on how the Government is taking forward its commitment to deliver the most ambitious programme of devolution this country has seen, and manifesto pledge to fix the foundations of local government. You will receive your statutory invitation for local government reorganisation separately, alongside all councils in your area, which will set out next steps for developing new unitary proposals.

I remain grateful for the leadership and commitment you have demonstrated on progressing with devolution and reorganisation, and look forward to working with you to deliver these changes.

I am copying this letter to your Chief Executives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim McMahon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

JIM MCMAHON OBE MP

Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution