

MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST 2026 AT 2.00PM****ORDER PAPER****EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

In the event of having to evacuate officers will be able to advise and be on hand to assist any disabled persons.

AGENDA ITEM NO.1 – CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

MADAM CHAIRMAN will make her announcement.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Madam Chairman will invite members who wish to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – NOTICE OF MOTION

With the consent of the Council, MR MULLANEY will move and MR BRAY will second the following altered motion:

- “1. This County Council condemns the government’s proposal for Local Government reorganisation in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
2. Their proposal to drag 100,000s of Leicestershire County residents into Leicester City, overwhelmingly against their will, is an undemocratic disgrace.
3. This Council notes that the Liberal Democrat group opposes the government’s proposal to put the rest of Leicestershire and Rutland into one Unitary authority, believing such an authority will be too remote from many residents.
4. Public consultation on the proposals demonstrated significant opposition to the expansion of Leicester City's boundaries, with 88% of respondents opposing such expansion.
5. Any future local government structure must deliver effective public services, strong local representation, value for money and long-term financial sustainability.
6. This Council believes that:

- (a) Leicester City's existing boundaries should be retained and that communities should not be transferred into Leicester City against their wishes.
- (b) The results of public consultation should be properly respected and reflected in any future proposals.
- (c) Decisions on the future structure of local government in Leicestershire should be based on evidence, sustainability, service effectiveness, and democratic accountability.
- (d) The Government's decision-making process should be transparent, evidence-based, and capable of withstanding public scrutiny. Where decisions appear inconsistent with the evidence submitted or fail to reflect the outcome of public consultation adequately, it is appropriate for the Council to consider all available legal remedies including judicial review.

7. This Council therefore resolves to:

- (a) Note that legal advice is being sought on the lawfulness and robustness of the Government's decision-making process in relation to local government reorganisation in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and, subject to that advice, consider what further steps, including any available legal remedies, may be appropriate if reasonable grounds are identified for doing so.
- (b) Call on the Government to safeguard local democracy by confirming that, should the timetable for this reorganisation slip beyond 1 April 2028, the scheduled May 2027 elections for the district and borough councils, Leicester City Council, the City Mayor and Rutland Council will proceed as soon as is possible, in order to maintain democratic accountability across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland during any extended transition period.
- (c) Call on the government and the new Prime Minister to go back to the drawing board and put together new plans for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Plans which will keep the city boundary the same as it currently is and ensure the residents of Leicestershire and Rutland have local government that can reflect their local needs and interests."

An amendment will be moved by MRS TAYLOR and seconded by MR SMITH:

"1. This Council notes that:

- (a) The Government is progressing proposals for local government reorganisation across Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland.
- (b) Public consultation on the proposals demonstrated significant opposition to the expansion of Leicester City's boundaries, with 88% of respondents opposing such expansion.

- (c) Any future local government structure must deliver effective public services, strong local representation, value for money and long-term financial sustainability.

2. This Council believes that:

- (a) Leicester City's existing boundaries should be retained and that communities should not be transferred into Leicester City against their wishes.
- (b) The results of public consultation should be properly respected and reflected in any future proposals.
- (c) Decisions on the future structure of local government in Leicestershire should be based on evidence, sustainability, service effectiveness, and democratic accountability.
- (d) The Government's decision-making process should be transparent, evidence-based, and capable of withstanding public scrutiny. Where decisions appear inconsistent with the evidence submitted or fail to reflect the outcome of public consultation adequately, it is appropriate for the Council to consider all available legal remedies.

3. This Council therefore resolves to:

- (a) Oppose any expansion of Leicester City's boundaries and support the retention of the City's existing boundary.
- (b) Call upon the Government to reconsider its current proposals for local government reorganisation in Leicestershire and bring forward revised proposals that take proper account of the public consultation findings, including the clear opposition to any expansion of Leicester City's boundaries.
- (c) Request that any future proposals are supported by robust evidence demonstrating long-term financial sustainability, efficient service delivery, effective local representation, and value for money for residents.
- (d) Express serious concern that the Government's decision notice appears not to give sufficient consideration to the economic evidence and long-term viability of alternative proposals and does not adequately reflect the outcome of public consultation, in which 88% of respondents opposed the expansion of Leicester City's boundaries.
- (e) Request the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to obtain Counsel's Opinion on the lawfulness and robustness of the Government's decision-making process, including whether adequate regard has been given to:
 - the evidence concerning the long-term financial and operational sustainability of alternative local government structures;
 - the views expressed through the public consultation process; and

- the stated criteria upon which the Government indicated its decision would be based.
- (f) Actively consider commencing or supporting an application for Judicial Review should Counsel's Opinion identify reasonable grounds that the Government has failed to take relevant considerations into account, has acted irrationally, has acted contrary to legitimate expectations arising from the consultation process, or has otherwise acted unlawfully in reaching its decision.
- (g) Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and local Members of Parliament setting out this position and requesting a detailed explanation of how the consultation responses and evidence relating to long-term viability and sustainability were considered in reaching the decision.
- (h) Call on the Government to safeguard local democracy by confirming that, should the timetable for this reorganisation slip beyond 1 April 2028, the scheduled May 2027 elections for the district and borough councils, Leicester City Council, the City Mayor, and Rutland County Council will proceed as soon as is possible, in order to maintain democratic accountability across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland during any extended transition period.”