



Council

**Monday, 8th September
2025**

Subject: Local Government Reorganisation Update

Report by:

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Purpose / Summary:

To provide an update to Council on the latest position regarding progress with plans for Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Lincolnshire.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council receives the latest update on plans for Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Lincolnshire, particularly noting the current position in respect of:

- i) Latest Government guidance, correspondence and timelines
- ii) West Lindsey engagement and collaboration in the development of final proposals across Greater Lincolnshire
- iii) Public engagement across Greater Lincolnshire, including early findings from West Lindsey's engagement exercise

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

On 16th December 2024, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government presented the English Devolution White Paper to Parliament. The overarching intention of the White Paper is for Devolution to become the universal position across England, accompanied by a large-scale, England wide programme of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). In respect of Devolution, a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) has already been established in Greater Lincolnshire, with a new Mayor elected in May 2025. The focus of this paper is purely on the Local Government Reorganisation element of the White Paper.

In respect of LGR, the White Paper sets out the intention to facilitate a programme of reorganisation for all two tier areas in England, and for unitary councils where there is evidence of failure or where the size or boundary may be hindering their ability to deliver sustainable and high-quality public services.

The legal framework for unitarisation is provided by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Under the legislation, the Secretary of State may invite a principal authority to propose single tier local government arrangements, and then consult upon these proposals before making a decision under this legislation.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, sets out the various different options for restructuring that can be put forward. The options as drafted in the Act does not currently include a scenario where two existing unitary councils, like North and North East Lincolnshire Councils may be merged together in isolation. This means that currently any proposal that suggests this must instead leave those two councils as separate unitaries.

Any proposal which suggests an existing unitary council merges with a district council is permissible under the current operating legislation and therefore can remain unchanged.

However, some of the proposals previously being promoted by Lincolnshire Councils included proposals to merge the two unitary councils in North Lincolnshire and North-East Lincolnshire. To reflect the legal stipulation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, these proposals have had to be amended which has resulted in an increase in the number of unitary councils being proposed for Greater Lincolnshire.

Following the publication of the White Paper, on 5th February 2025, the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution issued a statutory invitation to Council Leaders in two-tier areas inviting them to develop proposals for reorganisation. The Council submitted its interim proposal on 21st March 2025, with initial feedback received via a government letter to Lincolnshire Leaders on 3rd June. Any final proposals must be submitted by 28th November 2025.

On current government timelines, it is expected that new unitary authorities in Greater Lincolnshire will become operational on 1st April 2028, known as Vesting Day. Elections to the new Shadow Authority are expected to take place in May 2027.

Financial : FIN/66/26/MT/SL

In June 2025, the Minister announced funding to support the development of final LGR proposals; Greater Lincolnshire's allocation being £357,246. It was agreed by Chief Executives that this funding would be allocated to Lincolnshire County Council who would disseminate the funding to those Councils developing a final proposal as required.

The Interim Plan Feedback letter and the funding allocation letter make it clear that collaboration across areas is required, specifically in relation to information and data sharing. As such, some of this money is being used to develop a shared data baseline, with the remaining monies allocated to specific proposal development. This ensures a fair share of monies and also accounts for any local authorities that have chosen not to engage in the broader LGR programme.

On the 7th July 2025 Council acknowledged that there are resource implications as a result of LGR both in the short and longer term. Due to the scale of evidence, resource and financial implications had not at that time been fully developed and as such it was acknowledged that a sum of up to £50,000 can be drawn down through existing delegation from reserves or contingencies to support and facilitate the Council's involvement during the summer.

A further paper will be presented to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee on 25th September which will provide a more comprehensive overview of the resource and financial implications of developing the Council's position in relation to the Government's ambitions for LGR and the implications on West Lindsey of the various proposals being drawn up by other Local Authorities across Greater Lincolnshire.

It is anticipated that following the submission of proposals in November 2025 and the Government's statutory consultation and decision making processes that a further paper on broader financial implications in relation to supporting the transformation and transition arrangements into a new unitary Council will be required.

Staffing :

LGR is a new priority workstream for all Councils undergoing LGR which will, by its nature, put pressure on the capacity and resources of some corporate and other service areas who will be required to respond to the different elements of the LGR process. At West Lindsey, this includes, but is not limited to, input from the Policy & Strategy Team, Finance Team, People Services, Change, Performance and Programmes Team, Communications Team, and Senior Management Team.

Whilst an initial allowance of up to £50,000 provides support to enable some work to be carried out over the summer to deliver a position for the Final Submission date of 28th November 2025. Following that date there will be more significant implications for the Council's own resources to facilitate and enable to transition into a new unitary Council. This will need to be considered as part of the broader staffing structure and considered in a future paper.

Council staff are being kept informed of key developments relating to LGR via a dedicated page on the Council's intranet, through weekly staff messages, and all staff updates as required. This will continue throughout the next stages of the indicative LGR timeline.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

High-level consideration has been given to Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications and more detailed considerations will be undertaken over the course of the summer, as part of the Council's options appraisal of the final proposals that are in development.

Data Protection Implications:

Effective collaboration through the development of shared assumptions and datasets is a key requirement within the government's assessment criteria. It is therefore expected that councils will openly and effectively share data and information, with government prepared to intervene where this is not the case.

In Greater Lincolnshire, a shared data agreement is in place, facilitated through a secure shared data portal where individual councils can upload their data and information. Much of this is open-source data, however, the data sharing agreement includes provisions to safeguard and ensure handling of data is GDPR compliant and that high standards of data management are adhered to at all times.

A shared financial and demand baseline is also in development which will allow all bids put forward on behalf of Greater Lincolnshire to be based on the same principles, and allowing for alternative forecasting and assumptions to be tested in support of the variety of models being developed.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

None arising from this report

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

None arising from this report

Health Implications:

None arising from this report

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

[English Devolution White Paper 2024](#)

[Statutory Invitation from the Minister for Local Government & English Devolution to Greater Lincolnshire Council Leaders - 05.02.2025.](#)

[Local Government Boundary Commission for England LGR FAQs](#)

[WLDC LGR Interim Proposal Report to Full Council 18.03.2025](#)

[MHCLG: Summary of Feedback on Interim Plans - 03.06.2025](#)

[WLDC LGR Update Paper to Full Council - 07.07.2025](#)

Risk Assessment :

The Government has stated its intention to reorganise all two-tier local authority areas within this Parliament.

Within the criteria, Government has been clear that Councils should work together to develop a single proposal for the area. It is therefore important that all Councils engage in the process to ensure their area is appropriately represented in discussions and decisions.

Not engaging in the discussions creates a risk that any future decisions regarding local government structures in Lincolnshire do not represent the best interests of West Lindsey. Likewise, not submitting or supporting a final proposal on 28th November 2025 risks West Lindsey's priorities and interests not being taken into consideration by MHCLG when undertaking their assessments and making any final decisions. These risks are mitigated by regular and consistent engagement in LGR discussions at the local, regional and national level by both members and senior officers.

Where agreement has not been possible, government has stipulated that Councils can submit individual proposals if they wish, but that these should be limited to one option per council.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

☐

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

☐

No

x

Executive Summary

On 7th July, Council resolved to undertake supportive engagement with other local authorities in developing proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Greater Lincolnshire. At that point in time there were four proposals in development for the area. Since then, the number of proposals in development has increased. All final proposals are due to be submitted to Government no later than 28th November 2025.

This paper provides members with the latest update as work continues across Greater Lincolnshire to prepare for LGR. The update primarily focuses on three areas:

1. Latest Government communication and guidance
2. Engagement with other local authorities and public sector partners
3. Public engagement, including early findings from the Council's own ongoing engagement exercise

Providing an update at this point ensures members have all the latest information available to support ongoing consideration of which of the proposals currently in development best meets the needs of West Lindsey residents and businesses, based on the criteria set out in the Statutory Invitation, which can be summarised as:

- A proposal should seek to achieve for the whole of the area concerned the establishment of a single tier of local government.
- Unitary local government must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks.
- Unitary structures must prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services to citizens.
- Proposals should show how councils in the area have sought to work together in coming to a view that meets local needs and is informed by local views.
- New unitary structures must support devolution arrangements
- New unitary structures should enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment.

Final proposals must be submitted to Government for consideration no later than 28th November. A further paper will be presented to Council on 10th November for decision on West Lindsey's position ahead of this key deadline.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Local authorities in all 21 two-tier areas across England continue to prepare for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in line with Government timelines. The next key milestone is 28th November 2025, when councils in each of these areas must submit their final LGR proposals for consideration.
- 1.2 At its last meeting on 7th July 2025, Council resolved to undertake “supportive engagement working across all final proposals being developed for Greater Lincolnshire, with further assessment and decision-making opportunities for members at a future Council meeting.”
- 1.3 Following the decision in July, officers have acted on the mandate from Council, proactively engaging with other councils and public sector partners, working collaboratively to progress the work required up to 28th November, and regularly keeping staff and members informed of key developments. This work will continue in the lead up to November’s deadline, after which the focus will shift to LGR implementation.
- 1.4 Additionally, the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution (“the Minister”), and representatives from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have issued further updates and communication over the summer for consideration by local authorities when developing final LGR proposals.
- 1.5 This paper acts as a progress report, bringing together key updates on government communication and engagement activity, including public engagement currently underway across Greater Lincolnshire. Updating Council at this point ensures members continue to receive the latest information ahead of a decision point at the next meeting of Council on 10th November 2025.

2 Latest Government Guidance, Correspondence and Timelines

- 2.1 On 24th July 2025, the Minister wrote to all councils in two-tier areas with an update on LGR, accompanied by three advice notes covering the LGR process and timeline, financial decisions before LGR, and partnership working in social care in new unitary councils. Copies of these letters are attached to this report as Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively.
- 2.2 Additionally, meetings have taken place between Chief Executives and the designated MHCLG representative for Greater Lincolnshire who continues to offer advice, guidance and support in developing final proposals. Such meetings will continue throughout the LGR timeline.
- 2.3 In updating local authorities on the LGR process and timeline, the Minister set out a seven-stage process which is summarised in fig.1 below. Councils are currently at stage two: submission of formal unitary proposals.



Fig.1 MHCLG Seven Stage LGR Process

- 2.4 The letter re-stated that Councils may only submit one proposal for unitary local government, which can be either an individual submission or a joint submission with other councils that were invited to do so. Any proposals must be for the whole area concerned, in this case the ten administrative areas covering Greater Lincolnshire, and proposals must meet the criteria set out in the original [Statutory Invitation letter](#). An updated copy of the timeline is included below (fig.2). Members will be kept updated of any changes to this timeline, which remains indicative at this stage.

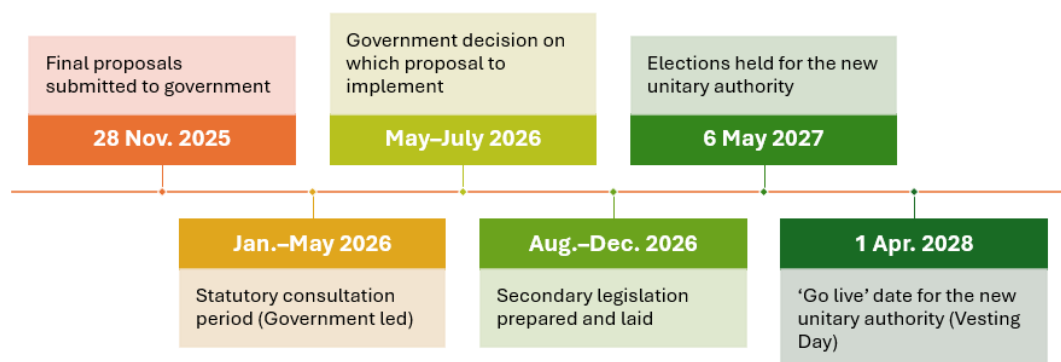


Fig.2 Indicative MHCLG Timeline for LGR Implementation in Greater Lincolnshire

3 Financial Decisions Ahead of LGR

- 3.1 For the first time since the announcement was made on LGR, further detail has been provided to Councils on financial decision-making and requirements leading up to Vesting Day. In his explanatory note (Appendix 3), the Minister emphasised that the Best Value Duty upon local authorities to set a balanced budget remains unchanged; and that financial decisions regarding ongoing service delivery and the medium-term financial strategy of existing councils must not compromise the future sustainability of new councils.

- 3.2 The letter reminds Councils that any financial decisions taken now could impact future decisions of the new unitary authority and implores existing councils to act accordingly in their decision-making. Examples of such decisions include, but are not limited to, sale and purchase of significant assets; transfer of local assets; entering into new contracts for service delivery including ICT procurement, major organisational restructures and changes to staff terms & conditions; establishing companies; undertaking job evaluation; permanent appointments to senior positions; changes to unplanned borrowing and the spending of reserves; and major changes to arrangements such as the local council tax support scheme and council tax exemption scheme.
- 3.3 On all of these matters, Councils are encouraged to take active steps at the appropriate times to align services with neighbouring councils to ensure a smooth transition to the new unitary authority; and to continue to operate in accordance with their agreed Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- 3.4 The letter also confirms the Government's intention to use Section 24 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to specify "a person to give consent for all relevant matters and how that power is to be exercised." This will take effect once Structural Orders have been made (Stage 5 of the LGR process, which is currently anticipated to be between August and December 2026) and means that written consent from the successor Council (i.e. the new unitary authority) will be required for:
- Land disposals over £100,000
 - Entering capital contracts worth more than £1,000,000
 - Entering non-capital contracts worth more than £100,000 (whole life costs)
- 3.5 Use of Section 24 in this way follows precedent set in previous examples of Local Government Reorganisation and is designed to ensure decisions are made in the best interests of residents of those areas being reorganised, and to ensure the sound financial position of the new unitary council.
- 3.6 On current timelines, any directives under Section 24 of the 2007 Act are anticipated to come into effect between August and December 2026 onwards, once the Structural Changes Order has been made.

4 Public Engagement Across Greater Lincolnshire

- 4.1 In developing any final proposal, one of the key requirements is for public engagement across the whole area concerned. Whilst West Lindsey is not developing its own LGR proposal, at a meeting of Corporate Policy & Resources Committee on 24th July 2025, members approved a West Lindsey engagement exercise to run alongside the Council's Budget Consultation over a six-week period from 25th July – 15th September.
- 4.2 The Council's public engagement on LGR takes the form of a ["Have Your Say on the Future of West Lindsey"](#) survey (copy also attached as

Appendix 5) which is currently live on the Council's website, promoted across all social media channels and delivered in person at the Budget Consultation events in Caistor, Market Rasen and Gainsborough. The questions are designed to aid understanding of what is important to West Lindsey residents in respect of place identity and future priorities for how local services are delivered.

- 4.3 The results of this exercise will be used to support members assessment of and ultimate decision-making on which, if any of the LGR proposals currently in development best meet the future needs and aspirations of West Lindsey residents, businesses and stakeholders and delivery against the district's priorities.
- 4.4 At the time of writing this report, a total of 231 survey responses have been received. When asked to identify which area people feel most part of, 46% stated that their local area compared to 24% for the district of West Lindsey and 21% for the county of Lincolnshire. A full breakdown of the responses received so far for this question are included in fig.3 below:

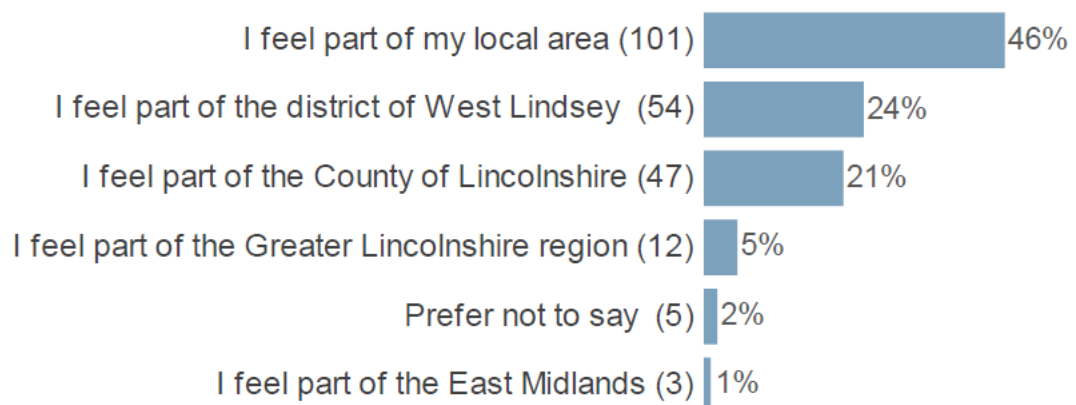


Fig.3 WLDC public engagement survey response

- 4.5 When asked "what do you value most about your local area?" the majority of respondents referenced the safe and friendly environment (63%) and the natural environment (62%) and the proximity to their local town (51%). A full breakdown of the responses received for this question to date are provided in fig.4 below.

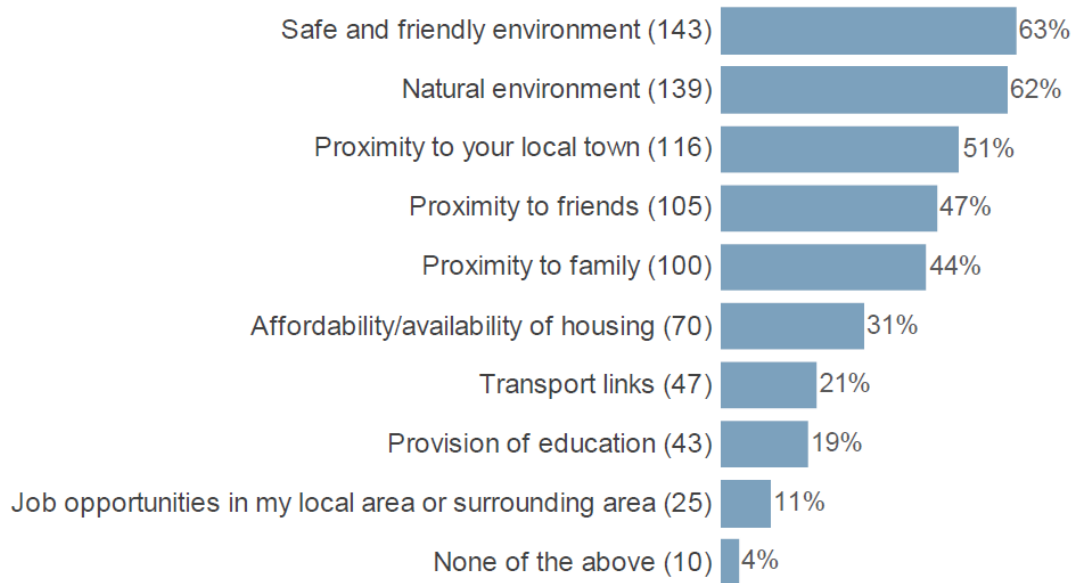
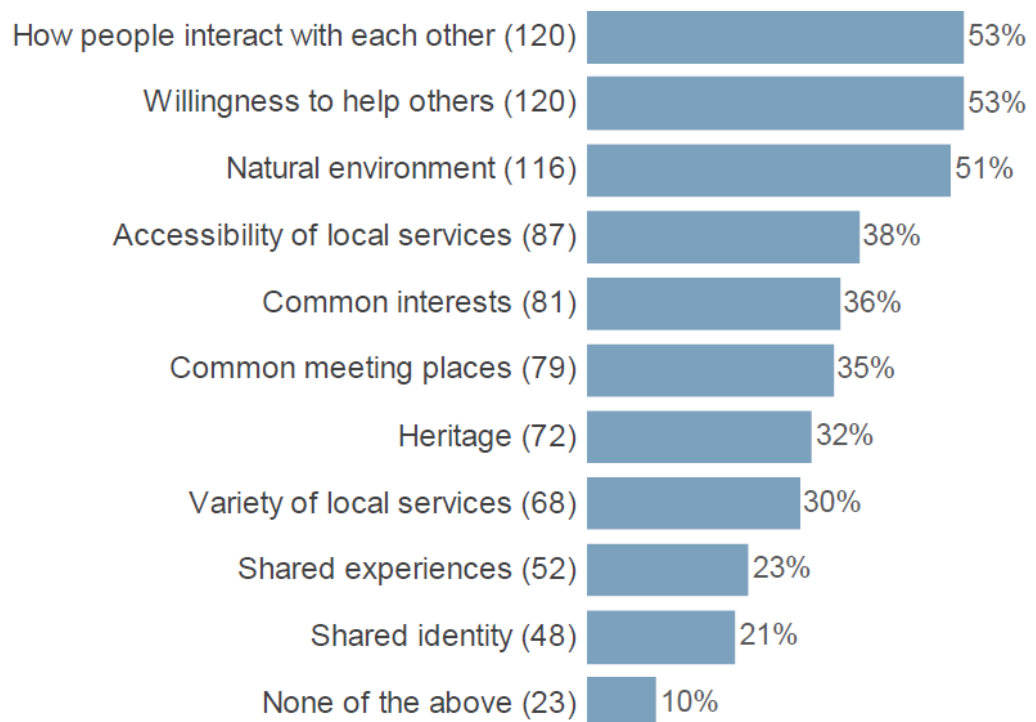


Fig.4 Responses to the question “what do you value most about your local area?”

- 4.6 When asked “what ties your local community together?” the following responses were received.



- 4.7 Respondents were asked to identify which town centre they visited most frequently. The majority stated Gainsborough (38%) and Lincoln (37%) with a full breakdown included below.

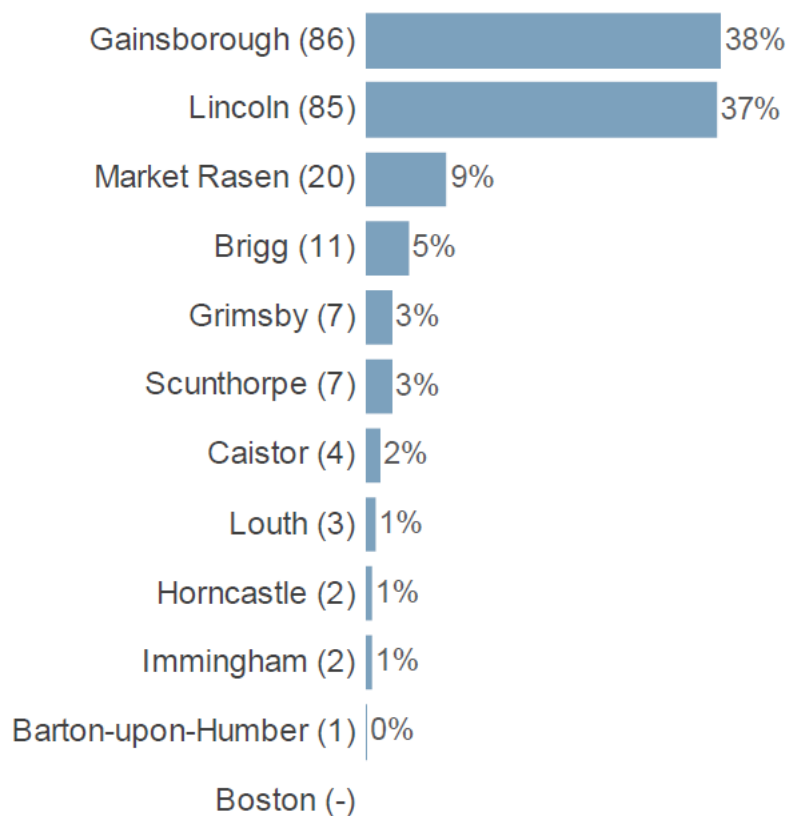
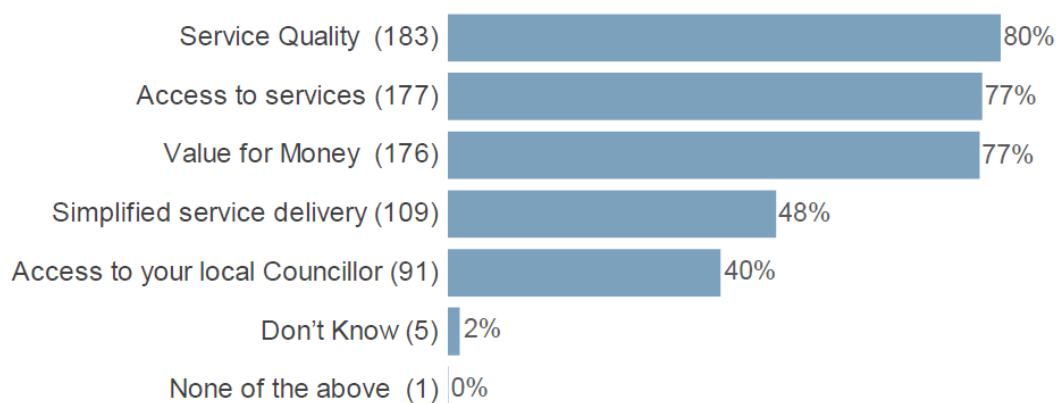


Fig.5 responses to the question “which town centre do you visit most frequently?”

- 4.8 In considering service delivery within a new unitary authority, respondents were asked to identify which services are of most importance. Supporting the local economy and creating job opportunities ranked highest at 23%, followed by protecting the environment and keeping it clean, and rubbish collection, both scoring 21% respectively. The full, ranked list of responses received for this question to date are included below:

“Which services are a priority to you?”	
Service	Ranking
Supporting the local economy, including creating job opportunities	1 (23%)
Rubbish collection	2 (21%)
Protecting the environment and keeping it clean	3 (20%)
Helping people stay healthy and safe	4 (13%)
Availability of affordable housing, including provision of homelessness services	5 (6%)
Open spaces including parks and play areas	6 (5%)
Building related services such as planning applications, enforcement, Building Control, protecting our heritage	6 (5%)
Local facilities like public toilets and leisure centres	7 (4%)
Working to mitigate the impact of climate change	8 (2%)
Support for housing needs, Council Tax and Benefits	9 (1%)

- 4.9 When asked to consider what the priorities should be for local government reorganisation in Lincolnshire, the following responses were received. Of most importance to people is service quality (80%), access to services (77%) and value for money (77%).



- 4.10 Analysis of the full and final results will be shared with members following the close of the survey in September. Results will also be shared publicly in the usual way through social media channels, the Council's website, and all available newsletters.
- 4.11 Elsewhere in Greater Lincolnshire, there are a number of separate engagement activities taking place on the other LGR proposals that are currently being developed.
- 4.12 East Lindsey and South Holland, backed by Boston, are running public events across the area under the banner ["A Greater Lincolnshire for All."](#) This included a public event which took place in Market Rasen on 18th August.
- 4.13 Lincolnshire County Council are running an online survey called ["Your Lincolnshire: Strengthen. Simplify. Save"](#) which is open until 29th September. This is supplemented by public events including ones at Gainsborough Library and Caistor Library, both on the 19th September.
- 4.14 North Lincolnshire are distributing a survey to all households, businesses and voluntary organisations called ["Your Services, Your Say, Your Future"](#) which is also available online until 18th September. The survey seeks to understand people's views on the principle of Local Government Reorganisation, rather than views on any particular proposal.
- 4.15 North Kesteven are running an [online survey](#) which is open until the end of September for people to share their views.
- 4.16 Finally, North East Lincolnshire have recently launched their webpages [Your Council, Your Future](#) which also includes an online survey.

5 Engagement with Greater Lincolnshire Councils and other Public Sector Partners to date

- 5.1 Acting on the mandate given by Council, supportive engagement continues across Greater Lincolnshire, and with other public sector partners. This primarily includes regular Chief Executive meetings and weekly Heads of Policy meetings as well as Heads of Communications

meetings, Heads of Human Resources meetings, and Chief Finance Officer meetings.

- 5.2 Other officers are engaged in specific service-based forums at which LGR forms part of the agenda. Additionally, officers continue to attend national and regional briefings from organisations such as MHCLG, the Local Government Association (LGA) and District Councils Network (DCN) in order to share knowledge and to keep up to date with the latest developments. This is also supplemented by intelligence fed back by the Interim Chief Executive via fortnightly DCN Chief Executive Board meetings.
- 5.3 Following meetings with the Chief Executive leads for the LGR proposals that are progressing in Greater Lincolnshire, agreement has been reached with the majority to engage key officers from West Lindsey District Council in contributing to the development of the bids.
- 5.4 This will assist in cementing relationships with the various Lincolnshire local authority bid teams and may provide opportunities for including key information around the opportunities and challenges that exist in West Lindsey in the final proposals.
- 5.5 As part of this approach to collaborative working across Greater Lincolnshire, Heads of Policy have developed and adopted an information sharing agreement to allow data to be shared across the area to support the development of Final Submission proposals.
- 5.6 Heads of Communication have also agreed a communication framework across all of the Councils to ensure a positive approach to communication is adopted by all. This includes advance warning of key decisions and the launch of new engagement activities. The fundamental principle is to ensure that, as far as possible, messaging around LGR is as consistent as possible for our residents across Greater Lincolnshire.
- 5.7 It is considered that, following the final submission of proposals, a more formal arrangement for engagement between key teams from all of the local authorities will be adopted.

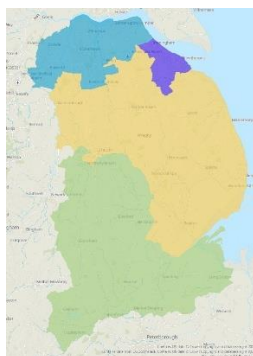
6 Update on LGR Proposals currently in development

- 6.1 At Full Council on 7th July there were four proposals in development for Greater Lincolnshire. Since then, additional proposals have emerged.
- 6.2 As such, for transparency and to ensure that the position of each Council is appropriately and fairly represented in this report, each authority or group of authorities has been asked to provide a factual summary of their position and LGR proposal based on the following questions.
 - What is the position of your Council/Councils?
 - What is your LGR proposal?
 - Mapped area of proposal (if available)

- Overview & Key dates for engagement (if available)
 - Link to your LGR webpages (where available)
- 6.3 An update on the latest position for each proposal is outlined below, including narrative and a map from each Council, or group of councils, in their own words where this has been provided.
- 6.4 **Proposal One: Developed by North Kesteven and South Kesteven District Councils**
 “North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC are partnered to develop an LGR proposal. The current developing proposal is an evolution of the Interim Proposal submitted in March 2025:
- Unitary 1 – North Kesteven DC, South Holland DC, South Kesteven DC and Rutland CC – Total population (mid-year estimate 2024) 410,360
 - Unitary 2 – Boston BC, City of Lincoln, East Lindsey DC, West Lindsey DC – Total population (mid-year estimate 2024) 420,585
 - Unitary 3 – North-East Lincolnshire Council
 - Unitary 4 – North Lincolnshire Council

The preference of the Kesteven proposal remains to merge North-East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire in order to deliver on MHCLG’s policy ambitions for a consolidated local government. However, there is significant legal uncertainty over whether the Secretary of State currently has the power to merge two unitary councils. Therefore, the final Kesteven proposal will likely not formally propose to merge the two northern unitaries, but instead include a recommendation to that effect to MHCLG.

Rutland CC has significant economic alignment with South Lincolnshire. MHCLG have consistently communicated an openness to cross Invitation Area boundary proposals, presuming that there is a strong rationale and the impacts on the neighbouring Invitation Area are taken into account.”



Proposal 1: Four Unitary Model		
Proposed By	Model	Population
North Kesteven South Kesteven	Unitary 1: North Kesteven, South Kesteven, South Holland, Rutland,	410,360
	Unitary 2: West Lindsey, Boston, Lincoln, East Lindsey	420,585
	Unitary 3: North Lincolnshire	171,336
	Unitary 4: North-East Lincolnshire	159,911

6.5 Proposal Two Update: Developed by City of Lincoln Council

Proposal 2: Final Details to be confirmed		
Proposed By	Model	Population
City of Lincoln	Unitary 1: City of Lincoln geography incorporating parts of West Lindsey and North Kesteven districts. Exact boundaries and population to be confirmed	TBC
	Rest of Greater Lincolnshire geography: to be confirmed	TBC

6.6 Proposal Three Update: Developed by the South-East Lincolnshire Partnership

“The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership – Boston Borough, East Lindsey and South Holland - are jointly developing ‘A Greater Lincolnshire for All’. This proposal was formally launched on July 10th 2025 in Lincoln. The proposal meets all Government criteria. The mapped area is for two unitary authorities of similar size and economic scale:

- Northern Lincolnshire Unitary Council – covering North Lincolnshire, North-East Lincolnshire, West Lindsey and the City of Lincoln. Population: 531,000
- Southern Lincolnshire Unitary Council – covering North Kesteven, South Kesteven, Boston, South Holland and East Lindsey. Population: 574,000.

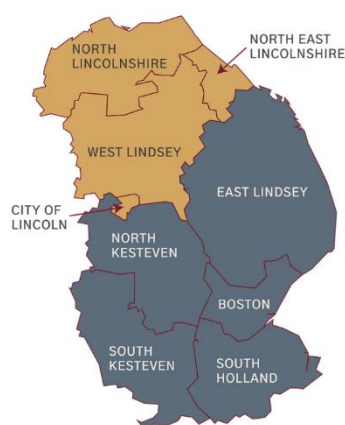
More information can be found here: www.greaterlincolnshireforall.org/

An engagement survey is available here for people to have a say: www.greaterlincolnshireforall.org/getinvolved

Engagement includes a comprehensive schedule of in-person and virtual engagement events, including briefings with key stakeholders in Greater Lincolnshire and town and parish councils. Engagement events have already taken place virtually with the public, town and parish councils (virtual and at the LALC conference), in Sleaford and Market Rasen.

Upcoming engagement events include Horncastle, Spalding, Lincoln, Mablethorpe, Boston as well as a virtual session. Louth and Skegness events are being arranged. More information here: www.greaterlincolnshireforall.org/events-1

For more information on A Greater Lincolnshire for All, visit: www.greaterlincolnshireforall.org/”



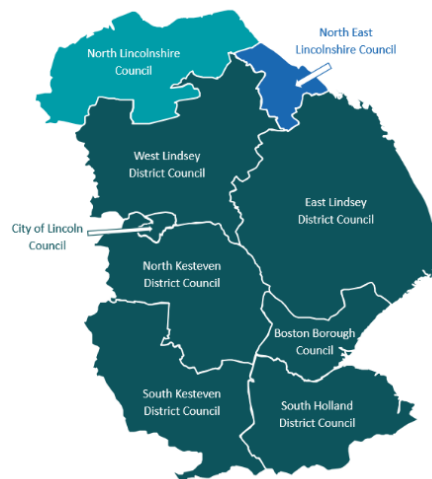
Proposal 3: Two Unitary Model		
Proposed By	Model	Population
Boston East Lindsey South Holland (the South-East Lincolnshire Partnership)	Unitary 1: West Lindsey, City of Lincoln, North Lincolnshire, North-East Lincolnshire	531,000
	Unitary 2: North Kesteven, South Kesteven, Boston, South Holland, East Lindsey	574,000

6.7 Proposal Four Update: Developed by Lincolnshire County Council

“Lincolnshire County Council’s proposal covers the existing Lincolnshire geography with North and North East Lincolnshire remaining unchanged.

Information around the proposal can be found here - [Your Lincolnshire – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

Public engagement is underway with a survey open until 29 September and public engagement events scheduled throughout September.”



Proposal 4: Three Unitary Model		
Proposed By	Model	Population
Lincolnshire County Council	Unitary 1: existing Lincolnshire County geography	789,502
	Unitary 2: North Lincolnshire	171,336
	Unitary 3: North-East Lincolnshire	159,911

6.8 Proposal Five Update: Developed by North-East Lincolnshire Council

“At Full Council on 24th July 2025, NELC Elected Members considered a report on Local Government Reorganisation and unanimously resolved:

1. That the contents of the report now submitted, including the contents of both appendices, be noted.
2. That the following in principle positions be supported:
 - a. That the preference is for North-East Lincolnshire to remain within its current administrative boundaries;
 - b. That this option is promoted across Greater Lincolnshire; and
 - c. Continue to explore opportunities to work closely with North Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire County Councils on any Greater Lincolnshire submissions to government.
3. That, in furtherance of the above, authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to oversee the continuation of the Local Government Reorganisation Working Group and to consult and collaborate with neighbouring authorities, with a view to building the requisite level of detail around the above in principle positions so as to enable submission of a coherent and compliant business case to government at the appropriate time.
4. That the Chief Executive be authorised to engage with authorities across Greater Lincolnshire together with appropriate stakeholders

(including residents at the appropriate time) regarding matters pertinent to Local Government Re-organisation, with a view to realising the aims of this report.

5. That the Chief Executive be instructed to bring a further report to Council prior to submission of the final business case to government.

Link to report: [Council | NELC](#)

Beyond wishing to retain a council on the current administrative boundary of North-East Lincolnshire Council, Elected Members have not yet made a formal decision in relation to proposals for the wider Greater Lincolnshire area.

Engagement with residents, businesses and other stakeholders began on Wednesday, 20th August 2025. The survey will run for four weeks, concluding on 17th September 2025.

The survey has been promoted in family hubs and council premises, community spaces, leisure facilities and GP practices across North-East Lincolnshire. Business sector, parish councils, and voluntary and community sector representatives have been contacted and asked to support the survey.”

The link to the engagement survey is: [Local Government Reorganisation 2025 - This survey is created by QuestionPro | QuestionPro Survey](#)

The link to the North East Lincolnshire Council webpage on local government reorganisation is: [Local Government Reorganisation \(LGR\) | NELC](#)

Proposal 5: Final Proposal still to be confirmed		
Proposed By	Model	Population
North-East Lincolnshire Council	Unitary 1: existing North-East Lincolnshire geography	159,911
	Rest of Greater Lincolnshire: To be confirmed	TBC

6.9 Position Update: North Lincolnshire Council

“North Lincolnshire Council will be taking forward a proposal for submission. The Council is currently undertaking a public engagement exercise, ending on the 18th September, and this has already seen a considerable response (some 3,000 responses at the time of writing this report). The Council will then respond to the community’s preferences and develop a bid in alignment with them.

In the meantime, preparatory work has started on a baseline proposal which can then be fully progressed once the outcome of the public engagement is known.”

7 Next Steps

- 7.1 Ahead of a decision-making point for Council on 10th November, staff and member workshops have been convened in September. Invites have been sent containing the full details and all members are encouraged to attend.

- 7.2 The workshops serve the dual purpose of exploring member priorities for the new Corporate Plan through the lens of LGR. At these workshops, members will be asked to consider priorities for LGR based on the key criteria outlined in the Statutory Invitation, these being:
- A proposal should seek to achieve for the whole of the area concerned the establishment of a single tier of local government.
 - Unitary local government must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks.
 - Unitary structures must prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services to citizens.
 - Proposals should show how councils in the area have sought to work together in coming to a view that meets local needs and is informed by local views.
 - New unitary structures must support devolution arrangements
 - New unitary structures should enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment.
- 7.3 The outcome of these workshops will be fed into a further LGR paper which will be presented to Council for decision on 10th November ahead of the final submission date of 28th November.
- 7.4 Additionally, supportive engagement will continue across Greater Lincolnshire, with further planned meetings scheduled regularly during the Autumn. Members and staff will continue to be involved and informed of key developments throughout this period.