



Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

cc. Alison McGovern MP

Minister of State (Minister for Local Government and Homelessness)

2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

By email: LGRorganisation@communities.gov.uk 27/11/2025

Dear Secretary of State,

Proposals from Gloucestershire Councils for a Single Unitary Authority and Two Unitary Authorities (East / West)

As Leaders of six of the seven principal councils in Gloucestershire, we are pleased to submit two proposals as follows:

1. Single unitary council¹: A unitary council for the whole county, population 659k (2023 mid-year estimate); and
2. Two unitary councils² (East/West), one comprising the districts of Gloucester, Forest of Dean, and Stroud (population 349k) and the other comprising the districts of Cheltenham, Cotswold, and Tewkesbury (population 310k).

A third option, from Gloucester City Council, has been prepared outside of our joint arrangements and will be submitted under separate cover.

Joint working arrangements

The single unitary proposal and East/West two unitaries proposal have been jointly prepared, with a maximum degree of collaboration between all seven principal councils, involving:

- Use of a shared base of data and evidence throughout;
- A single option analysis, jointly developed and approved;
- A single financial model and underpinning assumptions and calculations;
- Service-by-service meetings and analysis to inform aggregation and disaggregation choices;
- A joint, option agnostic, public and stakeholder engagement programme; and
- A single drafting approach, with divergence only where scale and place matters make it necessary.

¹ 'Type A' proposal

² 'Combined' proposal (2x 'Type B' proposals)

The effort in achieving this outcome has been significant, and as Leaders we have been closely involved, ensuring we have given time and attention to working through challenges collectively, as your invitation requested. This hard work in establishing leadership trust is already paying dividends for Gloucestershire as we move quickly towards a robust plan for transition and implementation.

Although we now have sight of the Gloucester City Council proposal, we have had insufficient time since its publication this month to undertake due diligence, and deliberate fully on its merits and risks. This process will be underway shortly and we intend to offer our conclusions as part of the Ministerial consultation on options.

Council decisions

The outcome of the various democratic processes for the six councils we represent, undertaken over recent weeks, is set out in the table below:

| Council | Decision process / statements - links | Option supported (or other resolution) | Comments |
|---------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|
| Cheltenham Borough Council | CBC Cabinet Meeting 18/11/2025 CDC Press Statement 27/11/2025 | East / West Two Unitaries (2UA) | Decision by Cabinet |
| Cotswold District Council | CDC Cabinet Meeting 26/11/2025 CDC Press Statement 26/11/2025 | Single Unitary Authority (1UA) | Decision by Cabinet |
| Forest of Dean District Council | FODC Cabinet Meeting 20/11/2025 FODC Press Statement 21/11/2025 | None (not supportive of LGR) | Decision by Cabinet |
| Gloucestershire County Council | GCC Cabinet Meeting 19/11/2025 GCC Press Statement 19/11/2025 | Single Unitary Authority (1UA) | Decision by Cabinet |
| Stroud District Council | SDC Council Meeting 20/11/2025 SDC Press Statement 21/11/2025 | Single Unitary Authority (1UA) | Decision by Council |
| Tewkesbury Borough Council | TBC Council Meeting 18/11/2025 TBC Press Statement 18/11/2025 | Single Unitary Authority (1UA) | Decision by Council |



Proposing Authorities

For clarity, the table above reflects that, in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement Act 2007:

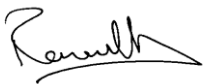


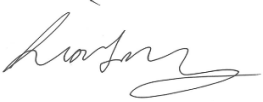
- The single unitary authority proposal for the County of Gloucestershire (attached) is proposed by Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, and Cotswold District Council.
- The East / West Two Unitaries proposal for the County of Gloucestershire (attached) is proposed by Cheltenham Borough Council.
- Forest of Dean Council is not supportive of LGR and is therefore not proposing an option.

Additional information and representations from individual councils


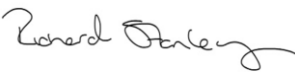
The proposals submitted are deliberately impartially framed. However individual Gloucestershire Councils, via their democratic processes, have reached their conclusions. Each Leader is therefore writing to you to separately reflect and explain the position of individual councils. Naturally these letters and documents will express more detail of the position reached by each Council, the key supporting reasoning, and include emphases or information of local importance. None of these additional representations are intended to contradict the substantive proposals attached.

Conclusion

We are happy to provide any further clarification on these proposals as needed and await confirmation of the next steps of the LGR process for Gloucestershire.

| Leader | Signature |
|--|--|
| Cllr Rowena Hay Cheltenham Borough Council |  |
| Cllr Mike Every Cotswold District Council |  |
| Cllr Adrian Birch Forest of Dean District Council |  |
| Cllr Lisa Spivey Gloucestershire County Council |  |



| Leader | Signature |
|--|--|
| Cllr Chloe Turner Stroud District Council |  |
| Cllr Richard Stanley Tewkesbury Borough Council |  |

Proposals attached and submitted

- i. Single unitary proposal and appendices
- ii. Two unitaries (East/West) proposal and appendices