

CONTACT EMAIL OUR REF YOUR REF DATE Councillor Aidan Godfrey agodfrey@staffordbc.gov.uk AG

## Local Government Reorganisation for Staffordshire

Six district and borough local authorities in Southern and Mid Staffordshire have been collaborating to develop plans for Local Government Reorganisation, exploring the right footprint for single tier government across Staffordshire, as requested by Central Government as part of a national programme. The local authorities working together to develop these plans are Stafford Borough Council, Cannock Chase District Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire District Council, and Tamworth Borough Council. We understand that the other local authorities in the area have submitted supplementary proposals and therefore it is likely you will receive similar communications from them, if you haven't already.

We believe that any solution should meet local needs and be informed by local views, enabling stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment given the envisaged much larger geographic footprint. It should be capable of securing efficiencies and improving capacity whilst ensuring we are providing high quality and sustainable public services and providing growth opportunities.

We submitted an interim plan to Central Government in March 2025, which set out some principles for reorganisation and we have now received our feedback. The plan and feedback can be found on the dedicated Local Government Reorganisation section on our <u>website</u>. We are evaluating our preferred option and assessing the benefits that it will deliver, which will inform our final proposal for submission to Central Government. Alongside this we will be commencing resident and wider stakeholder engagement.

We recognise it is vital to consider the views of those who live and work across Staffordshire and as a key partner we want to ensure we spend time understanding your views and how you wish to be engaged through the process. It is vitally important that our proposal ensures we can continue to work together with shared priorities and joint service delivery – as we currently do today. Over the coming months there will be opportunities to be involved, and we will share more details about our plans in the future. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss this further, any of the six local authorities would be happy to meet to discuss any elements of the reorganisation.

Regards

linge

Councillor Aidan Godfrey, Leader, Stafford Borough Council