

Please ask for:
Cllr Kay Cutts, MBE



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Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Ministry of Housing Communities
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Dear Secretary of State

Devolution and Unitary Local Government for Nottinghamshire

I write to request that you issue an invitation to Nottinghamshire County Council to submit proposals for the establishment of unitary local government within the County Council's administrative area.

It is anticipated that the imminent Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper will offer major opportunities for further strategic economic investment in Nottinghamshire, and much greater local leadership in key areas of public service delivery. It is clear, also, that the East Midlands would benefit greatly from devolution of powers and resources, and I am keen to work with my fellow County and City Leaders, to bring devolution to our region, in the context of the Midlands Engine.

I understand the White Paper will make unitary local government a pre-requisite of meaningful devolution. Given these factors, I believe the time is right to examine the structure of local government in Nottinghamshire, particularly given our immediate requirement to focus on our recovery from the current pandemic, and to provide high quality, affordability services to local people.

I believe that unitary local government for Nottinghamshire will offer better, simpler, and more cost-effective services to residents, and will be better placed to represent the wider interests of all those who live in our great County. We stand on the cusp of a unique opportunity to make things better.

In addition, there is compelling, independent evidence, that unitary local government saves money. COVID-19 has placed huge financial burdens on councils across the country. The ongoing impact of the pandemic on local government finances and our economy means that we should examine how local government in Nottinghamshire can be structured to best meet the challenges of recovery, resilience and sustainability that lie ahead.

On receipt of your invitation, this Council would bring forward compelling proposals for a new style of local government in Nottinghamshire. At the same time, I pledge to work with my fellow Leaders on an ambitious plan for devolution in the East Midlands.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Kay Cutts MBE
Leader of the Council
Nottinghamshire County Council