

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of David
Buckland [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2026 12:25
Subject: Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in
Warwickshire

Dear Town or Parish Council

As you will be aware, the Government has now launched the statutory consultation on local government reorganisation in our area and we very much hope that you will respond.

Two proposals are being considered by the Government and information about these is available through the consultation site. The options are a single council for Warwickshire, or two new councils for the North and South.

The two unitary proposal has been put forward by North Warwickshire Borough Council along with Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council. It would see the creation of two new councils:

- A North Warwickshire Unitary, covering the Boroughs of North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Rugby.
- A South Warwickshire Unitary, covering Stratford and Warwick Districts.

This model reflects the significant differences there are between the north and the south, which experience different patterns of population change, deprivation, service demand and economic opportunity.

We believe that the creation of two new councils provides clearer accountability for all local government services. It aligns governance, partnerships and service delivery with the realities of places. It creates councils that are large enough to be resilient and financially sustainable, delivering savings comparable to the alternative single unitary proposal, but remaining closer to local communities.

The model is designed to transform local government services to maximise improvement in priority outcomes for residents, businesses and communities. The 'locality model' at the heart of the proposal, produces additional efficiency and service improvement directly linked to being anchored in a coherent geography with sufficient grip on local patterns of need. It prioritises prevention and early intervention, strong commissioning and market management.

The proposal is supported by detailed analysis and engagement. An independent public opinion survey found that 73% of respondents supported the creation of two unitary councils, with 74% supporting a North and South Warwickshire model. The proposal is also supported by 5 of the 6 Warwickshire Members of Parliament, and the Mayor of the West Midlands.

The proposal places particular emphasis on strengthening local democracy and community voice. Locality and neighbourhood working are central to the model, with decisions intended to be taken as close as possible to the communities they affect.

For town and parish councils, the proposal is intended to provide clearer and more consistent engagement, with fewer tiers of decision making and more direct relationships with the principal authority. The model recognises the important role that town and parish councils play in representing local views, supporting community cohesion and delivering services at a neighbourhood level.

The proposal also emphasises partnership. It envisages stronger collaboration between unitary councils and town and parish councils on issues such as community infrastructure, local services,

neighbourhood planning and place shaping. The intention is to build on what already works well, rather than impose a one size fits all approach.

The two unitary model also reflects differences across the county. In some areas, town and parish councils play a particularly strong role in service delivery and community leadership. The model is intended to respect these differences, while providing a consistent framework for engagement and support.

The proposal places strong emphasis on continuity. It recognises the importance of existing relationships between district councils and town and parish councils and is clear that reorganisation should protect and strengthen these relationships through any transition.

The statutory consultation invites views against a set of questions. For reference, the proposal makes the following case in relation to those themes:

Sensible geographies and economic areas

North and South Warwickshire are very different. Patterns of deprivation, health outcomes, educational attainment and service demand vary significantly. The North faces higher levels of deprivation, poorer health outcomes and more acute demand for statutory services. The South faces pressures linked to growth, housing delivery, infrastructure and rural access to services. Public services already reflect these differences through place-based NHS arrangements, policing, education and community safety. Two unitary councils allow leadership, decision-making and service design to be aligned more closely to local patterns of need, while retaining scale where it adds resilience and value.

Ability to deliver the outcomes described

The proposal is underpinned by a defined place based operating model, with locality hubs and neighbourhood working providing the practical framework for integrated delivery and partnership working.

Right size for efficiency, capacity and resilience

The proposal argues for councils of sufficient scale to sustain service delivery, manage financial risk and invest in improvement, while remaining close to distinct places and communities. Both North and South unitary councils would be financially sustainable. The North is more reliant on government grant and business rates but is strengthened by the outcome of the government's Fair Funding Review. Detailed negotiation to create the new councils can ensure resources meet demand. Modelling by independent experts at Grant Thornton shows the single unitary and two unitary options deliver broadly similar savings.

High quality, sustainable public services

By bringing together services currently split across tiers within a single council in each area, the proposal aims to reduce fragmentation, strengthen accountability and support more coherent service pathways over time. The greatest financial risk facing the county by far is managing demand in services such as Adult Social Care, Children's Services and SEND. The two unitary model can manage this risk more effectively using a transformational approach, delivering greater financial upside.

Informed by local views and meeting local needs

An independent ORS public opinion survey with a sample size of 2002 people found that 73% of respondents agreed with the proposal to create two unitary councils, and 74% agreed with the proposed North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire model. The proposal is supported by 4 of the 5 districts, 5 of the 6 Warwickshire Members of Parliament, the Mayor of the West Midlands, and the majority of town and parish councils.

Supporting devolution arrangements

The model strengthens place-based leadership and provides a clearer interface with devolution, supporting closer alignment between local priorities and wider public service reform. The north and south model offers the best foundation for future collaboration with the West Midlands Combined Authority, particularly in areas such as transport, housing, and economic development.

Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment

Locality and neighbourhood working are central to the approach, providing a practical framework for closer engagement with communities and partners.

The consultation is being run by Government and responses should be submitted by 26th March either by email to: LGRconsultationresponse@communities.gov.uk or via the [official consultation portal here](https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/warwickshire/) <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/warwickshire/>

We hope this summary is helpful as you consider your engagement with the consultation. If it would be useful to talk through any aspect of the proposal we would of course be very happy to do so.

Best wishes

David Buckland
Chief Executive

Stratford on Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6HX
Switchboard +44 (0)1789 267575, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], web www.stratford.gov.uk

 **Please consider the environment and not print this email unless you need to**