

By Email:

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

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Our ref: DB/SY

Date: 27 November 2025

Dear Minister

**Local Government Reorganisation: Transforming Worcestershire  
Local government that works for people, powered by place and built for the future - The  
North and South Local Government Reorganisation Proposal for Worcestershire**

It is with great pleasure that we submit to you our ambitious proposal to transform local government in Worcestershire. In developing our proposal, you will see that our approach is based on qualitative and quantitative evidence that not only provides numerical data but also includes the feedback from those who directly use and have direct experience of local government services in Worcestershire.

In providing our submission for Local Government Reorganisation, we would like to take this opportunity to draw to your attention some key points for you to keep in mind when you read our proposal: -

**(1) Not just a name change**

What we are putting forward isn't about delivering more of the same with a new badge above the door. Instead, we will unlock real and lasting change that will deliver truly better outcomes for our residents, businesses, and public sector partners.

That's why our proposal is called **Transforming Worcestershire**. Transformation is at the heart of what we seek your permission to deliver. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to use our collective proven track record of doing things differently through shared services, to build a strong, sustainable future for everyone in Worcestershire.

**(2) A co-designed proposal: five councils collaborating with residents and partners**

Collaboration is fundamental to the success of our blueprint for change, which is why our proposal has been co-designed to ensure all parts of Worcestershire thrive, while preserving distinct cultural and economic identities that matter to residents. It is our ambition to carry this momentum to collaborate on into delivering two new dynamic councils for Worcestershire. One in the north and one in the south.

We will deliver this change through:

- Shifting public services from crisis response to a prevention-focused approach.
- Driving long-term financial sustainability through a focus on outcomes.
- Creating communities that feel more connected and empowered by keeping decision-making close to them.
- Delivering local services that respond faster to everyday issues.
- Reshaping support for vulnerable adults so they can live healthier, happier and safer lives.
- New approaches to supporting children and families, enabling them to stay together.
- Providing young people with better access to skills and jobs.
- Housing provision that doesn't just provide shelter but supports healthier lives.
- Economic strategies tailored to the needs of people and businesses in local areas, to unlock growth.

This is the **only proposal** from Worcestershire councils that is based on feedback from the public.

Through our extensive engagement programme, highlighted as an example of best practice by the Local Government Association, our residents delivered a very clear message – this new version of local government must remain close to the people, responsive to local needs and empower communities. There is a very real fear from our residents that a single unitary council would be remote, overly bureaucratic and focused on delivering budget-led services rather than those designed to meet local needs. The fact the Council Taxpayers of Worcestershire have **not** been given a proper opportunity to comment on the one unitary proposal suggests their fears are well founded. Only our solution deals with these concerns and prevents a devastating democratic deficit, which is why it has won such clear support from residents and parish/town councils across the county.

Many key public sector partners also back our plan, as they too are eager to join us on this journey and seize this vital opportunity to deliver sustainable, lasting change.

### **(3) Realistic and sustainable savings**

Of course, the finances are important. We are aware you have an alternative proposal to consider that, on the face of it, saves more money. However, we ask you to consider the sustainability of those savings. Without transformation they will quickly be eroded by the significant challenges local government faces. Our plan delivers realistic up-front savings with significant potential for these to grow and be locked in as we change and adapt services, so they are fit for the future.

### **(4) Safe, legal and reliable whilst delivering change with limited disruption**

We understand you will be concerned about the impact of disaggregation on adult social care and children's services. We have successfully brought complex services together in the past including, housing, planning and revenues and benefits. We assure you our adults and children's services will be safe and legal from day one. Those services often work in north and south teams already so any disruption would be minimal. In existing county service provision, Ofsted found widespread and systemic failings regarding support for children and young people with SEND. Also, auditors Grant Thornton have issued a statutory recommendation over concerns that spending on SEND provision is out of control with no robust plan to deal with the deficit. Whilst we understand that councils will not be expected to use general funds after Statutory Override ends in March 2028, we strongly

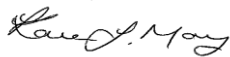
suggest that allowing a rebranded continuation of the status quo, under the auspices of a county-based operating model, is a much greater risk to the people of Worcestershire and public finances.

## (5) A clear choice for change

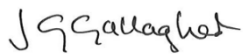
When it comes to the future of local government in Worcestershire, you face a clear choice. You can opt for a rebranded version of what we have now with no guarantee anything will change. Or you can embrace the opportunity we present you with to deliver a renewed, responsive, and resilient local government for Worcestershire that works for people, is powered by place, and built for the future.

We urge you to allow us to deliver this exciting change for Worcestershire and very much look forward to discussing our proposal with you and your colleagues at the earliest opportunity.

*Yours sincerely*



Cllr Karen May, Leader of Bromsgrove District Council



Cllr John Gallagher, Leader of Malvern Hills District Council



Cllr Sharon Harvey, Leader of Redditch Borough Council



Cllr Lynn Denham, Leader of Worcester City Council



Cllr Richard Morris, Leader of Wychavon District Council

