

COUNCIL- NOTICE ON MOTION

21 JANUARY 2025

Back Lincoln – Stop a Mega-Council

Proposed by: Cllr James Brown
Christopher

Seconded by: Cllr Martin

This Council Notes:

1. The Government's English Devolution white paper in December 2024, which included reference to supporting local government reorganisation.
2. The proposals being considered and implemented by some counties to merge existing district councils into large, county-wide unitary authorities, as seen recently in North Yorkshire.
3. The significant concerns of residents, businesses and the third sector across Lincolnshire regarding the negative impact a mega-council would have on local democracy, accountability, and the effective delivery of public services.
4. The financial situation of mega-councils created in recent years such as Somerset and North Northamptonshire have not improved post-unitarisation. The financial crisis in local government has not been solved by unitarisation.

This Council Believes:

1. Decisions affecting Lincoln should be taken in Lincoln.
2. Lincoln is a historic seat of democracy, with the UK's oldest parliamentary constituency and a mayoralty that has existed for over 800 years. This history would be lost in a mega-council, county wide unitary.
3. Whilst the current two-tier system presents some challenges, the solution does not lie in the creation of vast and remote mega-councils that would diminish local voices and accountability.
4. If unitarisation is to be implemented in Lincolnshire, it should be based on smaller, more localised areas that are aligned with existing communities and their identities, rather than one or two, county-wide mega-councils.
5. That any restructuring of local government in Lincolnshire must be driven by the genuine needs and preferences of local communities, and should not be a top-down imposition that disregards local concerns.

This Council Resolves:

1. At the current time, to reject the creation of a large, county-wide mega-council for Lincolnshire.
2. To call upon the Leader of the City Council to write to all Council Leaders in Greater Lincolnshire and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to inform them of Lincoln's wish to remain Lincoln, and request that they abandon any plans for a county-wide mega-council.