

# Have your say on the future of local councils in Lincolnshire

We want your views on plans to strengthen Lincolnshire, simplify services, and save money on local councils. Please send us your feedback by Monday 29 September 2025.

Did you know that one council empties bins, but another disposes of the waste? Or that one council repairs the roads, manages traffic lights and clears gullies, while another collects litter, empties bins and maintains nearby parks?

This is part of what's known as a two-tier system, where responsibilities are split between the county council and borough, city, or district councils. While these councils already work closely together, the Government plans to replace this system across England with new unitary councils—single organisations that would deliver all those local services. It's referred to as local government reorganisation.

## How things could work

Lincolnshire County Council submitted proposals in March for how local government reorganisation could work here, and we're now developing the details.

Other councils in the county are exploring different ideas for the future of local government. While this survey focuses on views to inform Lincolnshire County Council's detailed proposal, we're working closely together—so your input could help shape thinking across Lincolnshire.

## Strengthen

One of the most important roles of your council is to support vulnerable adults and children and to keep residents safe. Lincolnshire County Council already delivers outstanding-rated children's services, and good-rated adults services. It also operates Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, which responds to thousands of emergencies each year.

Our proposal ensures no disruption to these vital services. By keeping them intact, we can continue this lifesaving work and maintain strong support networks for those that need them most.

Creating one new council for your area would also mean a stronger financial position, helping us to invest in services and grow Lincolnshire's economy for the future.

## Simplify

Reorganising local government would make it easier for you to know who to contact, who their local councillors are, and what they are responsible for, with a single local authority leading on services from start to finish.

Town and parish councils won't change as part of reorganisation. They'll continue to be the voice of their communities and play an important role in shaping local

decisions.

## Save

Reducing the number of councils across Lincolnshire would provide the best value for taxpayers' by stopping duplication and providing more opportunities to join up services. These savings can be re-invested into council services.

Residents and businesses would also save time by reducing the red-tape and bureaucracy that comes with dealing with multiple councils.

## What do you think?

This survey is an opportunity for businesses and organisations in the area to share their views on local government reorganisation in Lincolnshire.

You can have your say by:

- completing our online survey at:  
[www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Yourlincolnshire](http://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Yourlincolnshire)
- completing this paper survey and returning to freepost address by 29 September 2025 (no stamp required)
- sharing your experience by clicking on 'stories' at  
[www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Yourlincolnshire](http://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Yourlincolnshire)
- attending one of our roadshows around Lincolnshire
- writing to us using the address at the end of this survey or via [engagement@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:engagement@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

If you need help to take part, please contact 01522 555222.

After this engagement closes, we'll carefully consider your views before sending our final proposal to government. The Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government will then review it and consult local people.

Your responses are intended to be anonymous. When completing open text responses, remember not to include personal or sensitive information.

Your

**Lincolnshire**

Strengthen. Simplify. Save.

**Lincolnshire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
*Working for a better future*

**Q1. Please select the sector that best describes your organisation:**

Please choose one box only

- ☐ County Council (councillor)
- ☐ County Council (officer)
- ☐ District/city/borough Council (councillor)
- ☐ District/city/borough council (officer)
- ☒ Town/parish council – please make sure you answer question 10!
- ☐ Voluntary, community and charity sector
- ☐ Civil Service or Government
- ☐ Academic/education
- ☐ Action group
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other, please specify

**Section 1 – Your experience**

**Q2. How would you describe your experience of the current two-tier system in Lincolnshire, where service responsibilities are divided between county and borough/city/district councils?**

Please choose one box only

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very good                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Good          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mixed experience             | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor                               | <input type="checkbox"/> No experience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Didn't know there was a two-tier system |  |

You can tell us more on the next page if you wish

**Q3. Please briefly describe any specific experiences that were particularly good.**

Please write in the box below (please use additional paper if you need more space)

Through experience, it is generally easier to have conversations with the District Council/ Councillors than County Council. It is democratically responsive, for each Councillor being responsible for a smaller geographic area and smaller quantity of constituents. Fix My Street has generally been perceived to work well.

**Q4. Please briefly describe any specific experiences that were particularly poor.**

Please write in the box below (please use additional paper if you need more space)

Communication between County, District and Town councils seems somewhat lacking at times. Communications at District level between the Exec. and Councillors also seems lacking at times.

County Council communications with Town Council is particularly poor. Responsive representation with current LCC Councillors seems particularly poor. Health/transport or representation LTC meetings.

A good example of poor communications and consultation was the Parklets project, which was poorly communicated and implemented.

### Q5. Which of the following councils do you deal with in a typical year?

Please choose all that apply

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boston Borough              | <input type="checkbox"/> North Lincolnshire      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Lincoln                        | <input type="checkbox"/> North East Lincolnshire |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> East Lindsey District       | <input type="checkbox"/> South Holland District  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lincolnshire County Council | <input type="checkbox"/> South Kesteven District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Kesteven District                | <input type="checkbox"/> West Lindsey            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other councils outside Lincolnshire    | <input type="checkbox"/> None                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say                      |  |

## Section 2 – Benefits or concerns

We're interested in your thoughts on the potential benefits and concerns you may have around having just one council, replacing the current borough/city/district and county structure.

Our proposal will focus on three things: strengthen; simplify and save

### Q6. What benefits would you expect to see from local government reorganisation?

Please choose all that apply

- ☐ Fewer communications
- ☐ Reduced administrative burden
- ☐ Single point of contact for council services
- ☐ A unified economic growth strategy across Lincolnshire
- ☐ Stronger voice and representation for Lincolnshire
- ☐ Supports the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority ambitions
- ☐ Strengthens the role town and parish councils play (and their urban equivalents)
- ☐ More consistent policies and procedures
- ☐ Streamlined application processes
- ☐ Same standard of service, regardless of location
- ☐ Services are delivered as and when expected
- ☐ Competitive business rates
- ☐ Faster decision making
- ☒ No benefits
- ☐ Other (please specify)

## Q7. What concerns do you have about local government reorganisation?

Please choose all that apply

- ☒ Potential disruption resulting from the breaking up of services
- ☒ Concerns over job security for staff in affected councils
- ☒ Impact on existing contracts or partnerships with affected councils
- ☒ New systems to use/learn
- ☒ Efficiencies and savings not passed on to local people and businesses
- ☒ Remote organisations don't know localities
- ☒ Lost local networks
- ☒ Diverse organisations' voices lost in larger areas
- ☒ Reduced influence for town and parish councils (and their urban equivalent)
- ☐ Doesn't reflect Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority ambitions
- ☐ No concerns
- ☐ Other (please specify)

## Q8. To what extent do you think local government reorganisation could help or hinder the following in Lincolnshire?

Please choose one box per heading only

### A. Economic growth

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helpful   | <input type="checkbox"/> A hindrance           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

### B. Local planning

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helpful   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A hindrance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know             |

### C. House building

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helpful   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A hindrance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know             |

### D. Infrastructure planning

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helpful   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A hindrance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know             |

### E. Tackling homelessness

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helpful   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A hindrance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know             |

**F. Tackling climate change**

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helpful   | <input type="checkbox"/> A hindrance           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

**G. Tackling health inequalities**

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helpful   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A hindrance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know             |

## **Section 3 – Additional comments or suggestions**

Neighbourhood or local area committees connect businesses, town and parish councils, resident groups, and the voluntary sector with key public services like councils, police, health, and fire. They work closely together to share concerns, insights, and shape local priorities. This would feed into a new council, so decisions reflect what matters most to local people and areas retain their identity.

**Q9. Please use this space to share any ideas you have about how 'area committees' might work, who could be involved and what type of decisions you think an area committee could take.**

We'd love to hear any ideas you have that would make reorganisation work well for your organisation.

Please write in the box below (please use additional paper if you need more space)

Area committees have been tried and disbanded. An area committee has no power to implement and ultimately will not change anything. Town and Parish Councils can offer direct information on local needs and issues.

Area committees are an 'easy' deferral of issues, which often do not lead to direct action.

**Q10. Please use this space if there's anything else you'd like to tell us about local government reorganisation in Lincolnshire.**

Please write in the box below (please use additional paper if you need more space)

Concerns that Town and Parish Councils will be less heard than in current system.

Loss of local identity.

Unlikely to be heard by a small number of representatives.

The split of the county into two distinct areas will have adverse effects on some areas, benefits for others. Larger urban areas of population will receive more focus at the neglect of smaller areas. This may create resentment within the system.

Communication with a smaller body becomes more difficult, less representation.

The system is apparently not working in other areas of the county where this has been implemented.

How often will Councillors show representation at local Town/Parish Councils?

Ward size will increase substantially, at least five fold increase.

Contact with representatives will become more problematic, leading to feeling that no-one listens because there is no one there to represent.

If you're responding on behalf of a town or parish council, parish meeting or local urban equivalent, please complete the next question.

If not, you have finished the survey and can return it to the address overleaf (no stamp required). Thank you. What you have told us will help decision makers choose what happens next.

## **Section 4 – Only answer this question if you are responding on behalf of a town or parish**

The most local level of councils – town councils, parish councils, parish meetings and their urban equivalents – are not directly affected by local government reorganisation. Your role will remain as a vital part of a stronger, simplified system.

Some town and parish councils across the county manage public toilets, maintain open spaces and provide services such as community buildings and allotments for example.

### **Q11. Are there any (additional) services that could be devolved to your town or parish?**

Please write in the box below (if no, please write no or leave blank. Please use additional paper if you need more space)

Defer to a future LTC meeting to discuss.

**Thank you for your responses. What you have told us will help decision makers choose what happens next.**

**Please return your completed questionnaire to us in an envelope, by 29 September 2025, via our freepost address:**

RSTY-UXJB-ARHK

Lincolnshire County Council

Your Lincolnshire

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