

## **A Statement from Borough Councillor Jenny Bokor about Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.**

### **Dear all**

Leaders of the seven district and borough councils in Leicestershire have issued a statement following the Government's confirmation that the county council elections in Leicestershire will go ahead in May 2025 and the area is not part of the English Devolution Priority programme.

As you may know Local Government is going to be reorganized in the next 3 years in order to save money and to stop the confusion caused by a two-tier system of both District/Borough & County Councils, offering different services to our residents. For example Waste Collection, Housing & Planning is under Charnwood Borough Council but services like Highways, Education and Adult Care is under County.

The Borough Councils leaders said in a joint statement: "We welcome the Government's decision to continue with the county council elections this year. This provides a more achievable timetable to develop proposals for a future local government structure for Leicestershire and Rutland. Importantly, it provides more time to engage and consult with our communities about how we move forward. **Your voice must be heard in this process.**

**Our communities are at the forefront of our minds when planning how best to deliver services in the future**, not only to make sure they feel connected and able to influence those decisions, but also to retain a sense of pride in the places that they live and work. That is clearly important to people. It will also provide more time to gather the evidence to support our proposals which we are confident will deliver savings to ensure funding is channelled towards frontline services. The district councils are working together on these plans.

We have already made it clear that we have grave concerns over Leicestershire County Council's proposals for a single unitary council for Leicestershire. With a population of around 750,000 people and 800-square miles of countryside including many towns and villages, it would be one of the biggest unitary authorities in the country. This would be too remote, too cumbersome and inaccessible, from the communities we serve.

**For the sake of our communities, we must keep the local in local government.**" End of statement

**As one of the Group Leaders at Charnwood Borough Council, I totally support the sentiments expressed in this statement.** I will be doing all I can to ensure that we still have LOCAL government even if it means dividing Leicestershire County into two unitarys; one in the north and one in the south. After all we have nothing in common with places like Hinckley & Bosworth or Harborough, either geographically or in terms of road infrastructure etc. However, there is commonality in a northern unitary of say, Rutland, Melton & Syston, Charnwood & NW Leicestershire. Think of a "banana" shape going across the top of Leicestershire. **I will keep you informed of progress on proposals, but County Council elections will still be on 1 May this year**

**regards**

**Cllr. Jenny Bokor**

**Borough Councillor for The Wolds**

**Conservative Group Leader, Charnwood Borough Council**