

Please ask for:  
**Cllr Mrs Kay Cutts, MBE**



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Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP  
Ministry of Housing Communities  
and Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
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16 September 2020

Dear Secretary of State

I write to request that you issue an invitation to Nottinghamshire's Councils to submit proposals for the establishment of unitary local government within the County Council's administrative area.

It is apparent that the imminent Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper will offer major opportunities for further strategic economic investment in Nottinghamshire, and much greater local leadership in key areas of public service delivery. It is clear, also, that the East Midlands would benefit greatly from devolution of powers and resources, and I am keen to work with my fellow County and City Leaders, to bring devolution to our region, in the context of the Midlands Engine.

I understand the White Paper will make unitary local government a pre-requisite of meaningful devolution. In turn, this makes the need for local government reorganisation in Nottinghamshire urgent, particularly given our immediate requirement to focus completely on our recovery from the current pandemic, and to provide high quality services to local people, which we and they can afford.

I believe that unitary local government for Nottinghamshire will offer better, simpler, and more cost-effective services to residents, and will be better placed to represent the wider interests of all those who live in our great County. We stand on the cusp of a unique opportunity to make things better.

In addition, there is compelling, independent evidence, that unitary local government saves money. COVID-19 has placed huge financial burdens on councils across the Country. The ongoing impact of the pandemic on local government finances and our economy means that the time is right to re-examine how local government in Nottinghamshire can be structured to best meet the challenges of recovery, resilience and sustainability that lie ahead.

On receipt of your invitation, this Council would bring forward compelling proposals for a new style of local government in Nottinghamshire. At the same time, I pledge to work with my fellow Leaders on an ambitious plan for devolution in the East Midlands.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Kay Cutts MBE  
Leader of the Council  
Nottinghamshire County Council

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