

*Councillor Simon Tagg, Leader*

Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Cllr. Mike Gledhill  
Leader  
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council



Castle House  
Barracks Road  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 1BL

By email: [Mike.Gledhill@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk](mailto:Mike.Gledhill@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk)

Dear Mike,

**RE: Your Local Government Reorganisation Proposals**

I am writing following the publication of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's (SMDC) options for Local Government Reorganisation geographies, and ahead of your Council meeting later this week.

I note that your officers, working with your Council's Devolution and LGR Sub-Committee, have developed four options based around the central notion of a North Staffordshire geography, including Stoke-on-Trent and also including Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough, without prior consultation with my Council.

You will be aware that at its full Council of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025, members of my Council across the chamber rejected an option to merge with Stoke-on-Trent, favouring the exploration of alternate options. Whilst we have been clear that we do not see merit in, nor a proven case for, this forced reorganisation, one of the options resolved by our full Council was to investigate an alternate Newcastle-under-Lyme and Staffordshire Moorlands option.

Given the recent loosening of Ministerial advice in relation to population size, and the slipping timescales as confirmed in the feedback letter to all Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent authorities last month, I believe this provides an opportunity for our Councils to discuss an option which not only recognises our shared culture, economy and heritage but also take into account the over 16,000 people that have signed petitions across Staffordshire Moorlands and Newcastle Borough saying NO to Stoke.

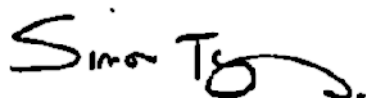
I note that you have included a wider geography of part/all of East Staffordshire and Stafford local authority areas, but that these Councils have strongly expressed their opposition to such approaches, including your preferred option as set out in your report to SMDC Council.

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In their meeting last week, our respective Chief Executives discussed the next steps following the Government's feedback and I would reiterate that we remain keen to work with you on a shared outcome which suits residents in both our borough and your district.

I look forward to meeting with you at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Tagg' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Simon Tagg  
Leader

[Simon.tagg@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.tagg@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)

CC: Cllr Mark Deaville, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council  
Karen Bradley MP, Staffordshire Moorlands  
Cllr Aidan Godfrey, Leader, Stafford Borough Council  
Cllr Mick Fitzpatrick, Leader, East Staffordshire Borough Council