

Councillor Simon Tagg, Leader

Our ref: CST/307f

Your ref:

Date:



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

By e-mail only:

Dear Stakeholder

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – Invitation to Engage

I am writing to you on behalf of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council to share our formally agreed position in relation to the evolving proposals for Local Government Reorganisation. The Council is committed to ensuring that any future arrangements reflect the democratic will of our residents, respect our unique identity, and build on the proud record of improved services and value for money in our Borough.

Our position is underpinned by a desire to preserve and strengthen the autonomy and civic character of Newcastle-under-Lyme—an area with a proud and enduring heritage. As you will know, Newcastle was granted borough status by Royal Charter in 1173, making us one of the oldest boroughs in the country. This status was reaffirmed in 1835 under the Municipal Corporations Act, and again in 1974, when Newcastle-under-Lyme retained its borough designation amidst widespread local government reform. These historic milestones reflect the strength of our local institutions and the enduring voice of our community.

We believe that the existing model in Newcastle works best for our community, but if forced local government reorganisation is imposed, this must protect this legacy while offering opportunities for innovation, stronger partnership, and better outcomes for our residents. To that end, the Council is launching a borough-wide consultation in August to understand the views of our residents, businesses, and partners. We hope you will support us by sharing and promoting this consultation through your networks so that we receive the broadest possible input.

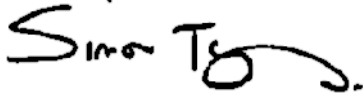
Running in parallel to the Government's local government reorganisation agenda is their desire to create Strategic Authorities to deliver devolution of powers and funding from central government to local areas. We recognise that a well-designed Strategic Authority could bring benefits in terms of scale, coordination, and investment. A model that respects local identities while enabling more effective regional planning, infrastructure delivery, and economic development could help unlock new opportunities for our communities. It must be noted that a Strategic Authority would not deliver day-to-day local services like emptying the bins or filling in potholes, and we feel it does not require forced local government reorganisation to move forward.

In September 2025, we, along with Staffordshire's District Councils, City Council, and County Council informed the Government that we preferred a whole Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent footprint for any future Strategic Authority.

We would like to invite you to meet with us in the coming weeks to discuss the options and share insights on how we can collectively shape the future governance landscape. Our aim is to foster a spirit of collaboration that places local communities at the heart of decision-making. Officers will be in contact and will work with other authorities in meeting with you to share your views.

Thank you for your continued support of Newcastle-under-Lyme. We look forward to working with you during this important period of discussion and change.

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

Cc: Gordon Mole, Chief Executive, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Contacting the Council:

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