



Nottingham City Council Case for Change

Local Government Reorganisation Bii Summary Document

In December 2024, the government announced plans for the biggest shake up of local government in England in over 50 years called Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). LGR aims to save money and improve local services by abolishing the current two-tier system under which some services are provided by county councils and other services are provided by district and borough councils. In their place, it is proposed to introduce a new structure of unitary councils (single councils) that are responsible for all local government services in their area.

Across the whole of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, it is proposed to replace the current nine councils with two new, unitary councils. Three different ways of achieving this are under consideration, and the government has launched a statutory consultation and are seeking views from the public and other key stakeholders about these three options.

This summary document is intended to provide some background information on one of the options, called option Bii. More information on the other two options (known as 1b and 1e) is available online at www.lgrnotts.org. You can complete the government survey online at the same link.

To find out more and keep up to date on LGR in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, visit www.lgrnotts.org.

What is Bii?

Bii was developed by Nottingham City Council, and proposes creating two new unitary authorities: one that focuses on urban areas (a Southwest unitary) and one for the rural communities (a North and East unitary). The urban authority would bring together Nottingham City with the more built-up parts of Rushcliffe, Broxtowe, and Gedling, creating a single council that reflects how people actually move around, use services, and work across the region. This would make the urban footprint more coherent and allow services to be planned and delivered in a more joined-up way.

The second authority would cover the more rural parts of Nottinghamshire, giving those communities a structure designed around their distinct needs. Bii takes the best elements of alternative options (1b and 1e) while mitigating their weaknesses and limitations, offering a clearer, more balanced approach to how services could be delivered across both urban and rural areas in the future.

Read the full proposal at lgrnotts.org.

Option Bii



A model tailored to real communities and existing economic geographies not outdated boundaries

Bii is built around communities, reflecting their heritage, their economies and their sense of belonging, giving residents a democratic voice in the places where they live, work, and study.

- 72% of respondents to a recent LGR survey emphasised the importance of meeting local needs and ensuring fairness across all parts of the area. Bii is built to deliver this, clustering similar local communities together, building on communities' sense of belonging to create cohesion across the county's diverse requirements that will allow service delivery to be better tailored and focused on local needs.

- 51% of the people who work in Nottingham live outside the current city's boundaries, meaning they have no say in how the city is run, nor do they contribute financially through their Council Tax to support the infrastructure they use on a daily basis.
- Strategic focus that was previously diverted away from rural areas to urban centres bordering the current Nottingham City Council area will be redirected towards addressing the specific housing demands of the rural communities in the North and East Unitary, including through more consistent planning for new houses.
- Bii better reflects how people live their lives – with local residents frequently commuting from suburbs and surrounding areas into Nottingham for work and leisure.

Reduced duplication with services aligned to rural and urban communities in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

The north and east of the county combines market towns, ex-mining communities, and extensive rural landscapes. The southern part of the county is dominated by the city of Nottingham and its wide commuter belt which reflects Nottingham's true urban conurbation – under Bii, the proposed Southwest Unitary covers this area.

- Bii adopts a rural-urban split, recognising the distinct needs of each area and enabling targeted interventions for each unitary's distinct demographic.
- Nottingham, in particular, is notably ethnically and religiously diverse, evidenced by a higher proportion of minority ethnic groups and a significant Muslim community.
- In contrast, the county's rural regions tend to have a predominantly White population, and a higher proportion of older residents, shaping different community needs and priorities.
- This demographic divergence means that public services must be responsive and flexible, ensuring they are appropriately tailored to the unique needs of their communities. For example, urban centres like Nottingham may require services that address the challenges and opportunities arising from a younger, more diverse population, including language support, cultural inclusion initiatives, and youth engagement programmes. Conversely, rural communities benefit from services focused on older adults, such as retirement facilities, healthcare for ageing populations, and schemes promoting social inclusion for the elderly, such as ExtraCare Villages, retirement parks, and initiatives like Age Friendly Nottingham.

Key principles of bii

Stronger alignment with the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA)

Bii is built to enable growth opportunities and could strengthen local industries, reflecting current work patterns and development priorities and ensuring required decision-making sits within sensible economic areas.

- The North and East Unitary will be able to leverage EMCCA initiatives tailored to its polycentric and rural character to drive economic growth, including the Supercluster - a clean energy and innovation hub centred on three former power stations, projected to deliver 6,800 new homes, 15,500 jobs, and £930m in annual Gross Value Added (GVA). The Heartlands initiative will empower communities in Ashfield, Mansfield, and surrounding villages to shape their own development, with options for infrastructure upgrades, business support, and community-led projects, while the Canal Corridor will position the unitary as a national leader in advanced manufacturing, innovation, and sustainability, attracting investment and driving future growth.
- The Southwest Unitary is positioned as a strategic growth corridor, aligning the Trent Arc under a single council more completely than 1b or 1e – better driving urban regeneration between Derby and Nottingham including delivery of 30,000 new homes, creation of over 40,000 jobs, and adding £2.4b annually to the local economy. It benefits from nearly £2b in transport investment to improve connectivity between Nottingham, Derby and major employment zones.
- EMCCA are also looking to complete a feasibility study for extending Nottingham's Tram Network along the eastern route from Colwick to Gamston, and a further expansion with a Park and Ride.



A combination of the strengths of models '1b' and '1e'

Bii is a proposal built on ward rather than district boundaries. It would create two balanced unitary councils – one for the North and East and one for the Southwest. It builds on the stronger elements of 1b and 1e and mitigates their risks and limitations.

- Bii ensures that each new unitary is optimally configured to deliver tailored services, foster local identity, and promote sustainable growth, ultimately leading to a more responsive and representative local government structure for all residents.
- While both Option 1b and Option 1e would leave the real conurbation of Nottingham split between two new unitaries, Bii would see the whole of the 'real' Nottingham sit in a single council.
- Bii is considered the 'most sensible and logical solution' by approximately half of Nottingham City respondents, validating the proposed boundary for Bii as being the best solution across all proposals.

Option 1b



Option 1e



Two new unitary councils that balance income and need across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Bii would see two new, balanced unitary councils across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire that could offer the most equal split of:

- Council tax band D properties
- Projected council tax receipts
- Projected social care to council tax receipts ratio

With social care being by far the largest service any unitary authority delivers, both councils are closely aligned in terms of population and net operating costs, ensuring fairness across the board.

Key principles
of bii

Key considerations of Bii

It could be considered more complex

Bii is based on ward rather than district boundaries as this creates a more balanced geography, better aligned services and future growth for both unitary councils. This may come with political, financial and practical considerations; however these will be mitigated through extensive engagement and consultation with partners where the boundary changes may impact operationally such as police beats and school catchment areas. As part of implementation planning Councils will undertake key 'no regret' activities - activities that will be required irrelevant of MHCLG decision, such as data cleansing, alignment of job roles/titles and consolidation of contract consolidation - and begin planning as early as possible.

Payback time increases slightly

Disaggregating services from current district footprints may cause some one-time transition costs, but this only minimally extends the overall payback time (0.4 years compared to other options).

