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Date: 24/3/26
Our Ref. CPC/LGR
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Via email: lgrconsultationresponse@communities.gov.uk

To whom it may concern,

**Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham – Public Consultation**

Colwick Parish Council has considered the proposals for local government reorganisation submitted on 28th November 2025 to HM Government.

While the Council does not wish to endorse a single option at this stage, Members recognise the rationale for LGR and believe any future arrangement must demonstrate coordination across flooding, highways and housing, alongside enabling meaningful neighbourhood representation and genuine opportunities for community participation in decision-making.

Within Colwick, flooding and community resilience are matters of particular importance. The impact of Storm Henk in January 2024 remains a vivid example of the seriousness of flood risk facing our parish. As the frequency and severity of extreme weather increases with climate change, the Council views it as vital that any new authority structure does not dilute the effectiveness of emergency response, preparedness, or long-term resilience building. Colwick Parish Council currently benefits from a positive and proactive relationship with Nottinghamshire County Council, including being part of the "Community Flood Signage Scheme" - which empowers trained volunteers to close flooded roads. We would be opposed to any reorganisation that weakens our ability to respond to community needs.

Members also consider that neighbourhood governance must be strengthened through this process. The Council supports national representations made by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and notes the recent debate in the House of Lords in relation to the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill which highlighted the important role parish and town councils can play as the most local tier of government. Parish and town councils are a long-standing and proven model of very local democratic governance - providing representation at neighbourhood scale, creating opportunities for participation

beyond periodic elections, and having established mechanisms for local resource allocation through the precept. Where appropriate, and with the necessary powers and resources, parish and town councils can also support the delivery of local services and act as an important bridge between residents and principal authorities. In that context, Colwick Parish Council would welcome further discussion about how local representation will be strengthened under any future arrangement

We also wish to reiterate concerns raised during the local "engagement exercise" regarding the failure to secure meaningful community involvement in the reorganisation process itself. Given the scale and significance of the changes proposed, communities should have been engaged through a genuinely deliberative process at a much earlier stage. In Colwick, that standard was not met. The process relied too heavily on digital channels, placing residents with lower digital access at a clear disadvantage and limiting their ability to participate on equal terms. Confidence has been further damaged by the fact that one of the options now widely understood to be under serious consideration was not included in that earlier engagement with Colwick residents. Residents in the Parish of Colwick were presented with fewer options to comment on than residents living within Nottingham City, which is unfair and calls into question the legitimacy of the engagement exercise. The absence of early, meaningful and deliberative engagement has also contributed to a more polarised local debate, in which mistrust, misinformation and adversarial framing have been able to grow more easily than they might have under a fairer and more participatory process. For many locally, these factors combined have reinforced the impression that the direction of travel had already been set before communities were asked for their views, and that this has been a process done to them rather than shaped with them.

Finally, the Council notes that there may be a future review of boundaries, and we would be keen to be involved in any such discussions. Colwick sits in a distinctive position at the edge of administrative boundaries, and in some places those boundaries do not align with the identity and lived reality of the community. Many people identify as living or working in Colwick despite falling outside the current administrative boundary. This underlines the importance of ensuring that any future boundary review takes proper account of local identity, practical governance and the voices of those most affected.

In conclusion, Colwick Parish Council does not support a specific option at this stage. Any acceptable outcome must protect service quality, strengthen resilience, respect local identity, and create genuine opportunities for neighbourhood empowerment. Any further stage of this process must be fairer, more accessible and more meaningful, so that communities such as Colwick can have confidence that their views are helping to shape decisions before they are finalised.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Abby Booker *BEng (Hons)*
Chair of Colwick Parish Council

Cc. Leader & Chief Executive of Gedling Borough Council
Leader & Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council
Leader & Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council