



The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP
Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities and Local Government

Sent by email

Please ask for

Direct Line
Email
Our ref

Date

Dan Green
Chief Executive
(01788) 533737
pa.mailbox@rugby.gov.uk
FC26NOV2025/VB

27 November 2025

Dear Mr Reed,

Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire

I am writing to set out Rugby Borough Council's position regarding Local Government Reorganisation within Warwickshire.

Following extensive assessment of the two emerging business cases for Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire, Rugby Borough Council supports proposals for a single unitary authority for Warwickshire. This support arises from a view that if, implemented correctly and cognisant of all risks, a single unitary authority solution offers significant positive opportunities for the whole county as well as greater financial benefits.

By contrast, at a time of significant change, the uncertainty associated with the two unitary model, potentially jeopardising the delivery of key services, represents too great a risk to the residents of Rugby and its villages.

In setting out the Council's support for a single unitary authority solution, we would also like to highlight some of the key issues and opportunities which the Council has identified and would like to address through the forthcoming discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government representatives and local partners:

- The Council has concerns regarding the validity of the financial viability of either model proposed for submission (single unitary council or two unitary councils), reflecting the challenging financial position across the local government landscape.
- Whilst the Council recognises certain benefits of the legal facility of a continuing authority, it does not currently support proposals for a continuing administration within Warwickshire as it recognises that this gives the impression of a continuing County Council. Rugby Borough Council believes that there is a need for a new organisation with a new culture which is able to take full advantage of the opportunities which the Local Government Reorganisation presents. The Council is of the view that further debate is required regarding how it would be implemented locally.

- The Council is of the view that the unitary council covering Rugby (under a single unitary or two unitary model) must operate in a decentralised manner with a major local presence within Rugby and all other major towns. Within this 'Rugby Model', it must strive to increase democratic accountability through local decision making, community engagement and further devolution.
- To support increased democratic accountability, the Council wishes to pursue a Community Governance Review to progress the formation of a new Rugby Town Council and to define future Parish Council arrangements within the Borough.
- The Council notes that at present, the designation of a Strategic Authority for Warwickshire remains unresolved. While there is an apparent broad preference among local partners for alignment with the West Midlands Combined Authority, no formal offer or invitation has been forthcoming. This uncertainty presents a challenge in planning for future governance and regional collaboration.
- The Council is of the view that Rugby's cultural assets such as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum and local Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations must be protected and preserved through any changes in local government structures.
- Similarly, financial assets including reserves held by Rugby Borough Council have been accumulated through contributions made by Rugby's residents and businesses and must be used for their benefit rather than being used to fund other organisational or service deficits.

Given there is now clarity on the likely outcomes for Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire, Rugby Borough Council intends to undertake a community engagement exercise with its residents and will report findings to government and partner councils across Warwickshire.

We look forward to continuing our work with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as well as local partners to ensure that any future unitary authority covering Rugby is able to progress the matters set out in this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Dan Green
Chief Executive



Councillor Michael Moran
Leader of Rugby Borough Council