

## Appendix A to 2025 Minutes

### Proposed Local Authority Reorganisation

In December 2024, the government issued a White Paper on English devolution. This sets out its intention to abolish 2 tier county and district councils, including Lancaster City Council, and create unitary councils with populations of around **half a million people**. The new unitary authorities would take control of all local services and would be involved in linking to other councils.

In February 2025, all councils, including Lancaster, were invited by the government to submit proposals with a deadline of 28 November 2025.

In September, Lancaster City Council - alongside a county-wide consultation - asked for local views. There was much opposition to merging Lancaster with Blackpool and Preston because of fears of local interests being sidelined

News reports this week indicate the government has been asked to delay a council shake-up that will axe all of Lancashire's local authorities, amid a warning key services could be at risk if the process was "rushed". 2/3 of 13,000 Lancashire residents who responded to a county- wide consultation are opposed to plans

Among those surveyed, many highlighted their worries that the plans could see smaller towns and communities neglected by the larger authorities. In contrast, others said they saw no benefits to the proposed changes.