

**REPORT FROM:** Leader of the Council/Chief Executive

**TO:** Executive

**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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## **Local Government Re-organisation – Pendle Borough Council Covering Letter**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform the Executive of the covering letter to be sent to Government, following the Council meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025, with regards to Pendle Borough Councils additional response to Local Government Re-organisation in Lancashire.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the Executive agrees the contents of the covering letter attached as Appendix 1
- (2) That the Executive instructs the Chief Executive to forward the covering letter to the relevant Minister for State, before the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 deadline.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) The Council has been invited to respond to the invitation letter sent by the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- (2) The Council agreed at its meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, to endorse the “all Lancashire Leaders letter” in response to the above, and expressed its desire to send a separate covering letter expressing its preferred potential Unitary options, as per the “all Lancashire letter” and other additional points.

### **ISSUE**

1. Following the Council meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Members agreed unanimously to support the signing of the “all Lancashire Leaders letter” regards Re-organisation of local government and the Minister for States invitation to all Councils in Lancashire.

2. Furthermore, and again voted unanimously, the Council wished to convey its preferences on the options stated in the “all Lancashire Leaders letter”, along with a number of relevant additional points, in a separate covering letter.
3. A covering letter has been produced, as attached, and has been circulated to all Group Leaders for comment, and any comments received have been agreed and incorporated into this version of the Pendle Borough Council separate covering letter.
4. If the Executive are in agreement with the covering letters contents, the Chief Executive will forward the covering letter, to the relevant Minister, prior to the deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Policy:</b>	Not affected at this current time
<b>Financial:</b>	None arising directly from this report, though should Local Government re-organisation proceed in Lancashire, costs may be incurred. These are not yet known or quantified. There may also be costs associated with the preparation of a further submission to Government by the 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 deadline. Again, such costs are not yet known or quantified.
<b>Legal:</b>	None arising directly from this report
<b>Risk Management:</b>	None directly arising from this report
<b>Health and Safety:</b>	None directly arising from this report
<b>Sustainability:</b>	None directly arising from this report
<b>Community Safety:</b>	None directly arising from this report
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	None directly arising from this report

## **APPENDICES**

Local Government Re-organisation – Pendle Borough Council covering letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

See Council papers for Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation item provided at Full Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025