



Adam Jogee MP
Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Cllr Simon Tagg, Leader of the Council

[sent via email]

4 November 2025

Dear Leader,

Re: Support for a Stand-Alone Unitary Authority for Newcastle-under-Lyme
Ref: AJ05253

Re: Support for a Stand-Alone Unitary Authority for Newcastle-under-Lyme

Thank you for your letter regarding the ongoing discussions about local government reorganisation in our county of Staffordshire.

Let me be clear with you, because I'm not sure the message has been heard - my approach remains focused on ensuring that the people of Newcastle-under-Lyme have a strong and distinct voice in shaping our future and seizing the opportunities before us, as we learn the lessons of the past.

My view is that Newcastle-under-Lyme has every reason to consider every single option. This community has a unique identity, deep-rooted communities, and a growing local economy. It is vital that decisions about our area are shaped by local people, by those who understand our priorities and share our commitment to fairness, inclusion, and opportunity for all.

Local government reorganisation must be about improving accountability and strengthening local democracy. As a county councillor, working down at County Hall in Stafford, you'll appreciate the importance of that more than most.

It would be helpful to me, and to all those constituents of mine who have been in touch with me, if you could respond to my letter of the 2nd September 2025. In that letter, I asked for a briefing from you on what work had been done to date on forming the District Borough Council's position and proposals, as well as the discussions you have had with neighbouring authorities and strategic partners.

This request was made after a number of residents expressed their concern at the failures of proper and inclusive leadership from the District Borough Council over local government reorganisation and the very confusing messaging.

I would be grateful if you could respond as a matter of urgency since you seemingly prefer to engage with me in writing. You've seen me in person on a number of occasions in recent months, including outside my home, and made no effort to engage in a serious, respectful conversation about the future and how we ensure that my constituents get the services and representation that they deserve.

Further to this, I do note that Labour councillors at the District Borough Council tabled an amendment to proceedings that proposed a single Newcastle Unitary Authority at a special meeting of Full Council on 19th March 2025. The minutes of that meeting suggest that you and the Conservative Group of Councillors voted against this proposal and instead voted to

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explore talks in 'merging' Newcastle-under-Lyme with Shropshire or West Staffordshire.

It is a proposal that merits serious consideration, and I welcome your belated support for the proposals from my Labour colleagues on the District Borough Council.

It would be helpful if you could find time to meet with me and my Hon. Friends, the Member of Parliament for Stafford and the Member of Parliament for Stoke-on-Trent North as a matter of urgency. You'll know that all three of us represent council wards in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

I will continue to raise this issue in Parliament with Ministers and relevant stakeholders to ensure Newcastle-under-Lyme's interests are properly represented at every stage of the process.

Can you please ask your office to send through dates for a meeting with my colleagues and I to take place as a matter of urgency?

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Cllr Simon Tagg, Leader, Newcastle-under-Lyme District Borough Council, Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 1BL who recently contacted me regarding

Sincerely,

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