

Motion to Full Council from the Conservative Group – 8th July 2026

Save Our Borough

This Council notes that:

1. An 11,000-signature petition opposing Forced Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) has now been formally submitted to the Secretary of State.
2. The petition reflects strong and widespread local opposition to proposals that could result in the merger of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough with Stoke-on-Trent as part of a North Staffordshire authority.
3. Residents have clearly expressed concerns that such proposals would:
 - Undermine local democracy;
 - Reduce accountability;
 - Create more remote decision-making; and
 - Deliver no clear benefit to local communities.
4. Newcastle-under-Lyme has a proud history of over 853 years as an independent and self-governing Borough, with strong local identity and effective service delivery.
5. The national political context is changing with the appointment of a new Prime Minister, presenting an opportunity for a reconsideration of Government policy on local government reorganisation.

This Council believes that:

1. Local government should remain local, accountable, and reflective of community identity.
2. Any proposals for local government reorganisation must have the clear consent of local residents and councils.
3. A “one-size-fits-all” approach to restructuring is inappropriate and risks damaging effective local governance.

This Council resolves to:

1. Reaffirm its opposition to Local Government Reorganisation and the principle of maintaining Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough as a standalone authority.
2. Reaffirm its opposition to merger of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough with Stoke-on-Trent as part of a North Staffordshire authority and endorse the petition submitted to Government as a clear expression of residents’ views.

3. Call on the new Prime Minister and the Secretary of State to:
 - Scrap proposals for forced council mergers in Staffordshire;
 - Pause and reconsider the policy of Forced Local Government Reorganisation; and
 - Retain the current structure of local government where it continues to serve residents effectively.

4. Request that the Leader of the Council & Chief Executive write to the incoming Prime Minister to set out the Council's position and seek a meeting to discuss the matter.

Proposed: Cllr Simon Tagg

Seconded: Cllr Mark Holland