Conservatives

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

10 November 2026

Jim McMahon OBE MP
Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Minister,

Re: Local Government Reorganisation in Staffordshire: our opposition and concerns following the pause in the process

I am writing on behalf of the Conservative Group at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to set out our continued opposition to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Staffordshire, and our concern at the uncertainty created by the Government's decision to pause and reconsider the process.

I wish to be clear. The Conservative Group has opposed the principle of LGR from the outset. Our position has been consistent throughout, and the pause has not changed it.

Staffordshire Moorlands has its own distinct identity and a proud history of local government. Our market towns and rural villages are not simply administrative areas on a map. They are communities with their own priorities, and they value a council that understands their needs. Replacing the existing arrangements with a much larger unitary authority would move decisions further from residents and weaken local accountability. If it isn't broken, don't mend it.

We have yet to see convincing evidence that abolishing the existing district and county structures would improve services or deliver savings. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has already spent [£X] on the reorganisation process, money that would have been better spent on front line services at a time of real financial pressure. No one asked for this change, and [evidence of local opinion, e.g. survey or consultation results] shows little support for it among residents.

The pause has also created further uncertainty. Councils need to plan ahead, manage their finances and focus on delivering services, and our staff deserve clarity about their future rather than being left to work under the shadow of major organisational change.

Our concern is therefore not which model of reorganisation is eventually chosen, but whether reorganisation should happen at all. The fact that a process has begun does not mean it must end with the abolition of our councils. The pause is an opportunity to listen to local concerns and consider properly whether change is needed.

YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM FOR
STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS

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Promoted by James Aberley on behalf of Staffordshire Moorlands Conservatives, all of 50 Broad Street, Leek, ST13 5NS

I would be grateful for clear answers to the following questions:

1. Will the Government genuinely reconsider whether LGR is necessary in Staffordshire, rather than simply revisiting which model should be imposed?
2. What evidence does the Government have that the current two-tier arrangements in Staffordshire Moorlands are failing residents to an extent that justifies their abolition?
3. When will the Government announce its decision, and what timetable will it then follow?
4. Will councils be reimbursed for the costs they have already incurred on reorganisation?
5. What reassurance can the Government give council staff in the meantime?
6. Will residents be consulted directly before any final decision is taken?

We are not asking for a different form of reorganisation. We are asking the Government to recognise that reorganisation is neither wanted nor needed in Staffordshire Moorlands, and that the existing system should be retained.

I would welcome a substantive response to these concerns, and an assurance that the Government will listen to those who have consistently argued for local democracy in Staffordshire Moorlands.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Mark Deaville
Leader of the Conservative Group
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

cc: [Local MP], [Leader of Staffordshire County Council]

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