

Cabinet – Tuesday, 28 October 2025

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION FROM MS S DILLON

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

QUESTION

I see from the recently released north,city,south proposals you speak of 3 Unitary Authorities, each of which are a combination of current District Councils or a City Council.

I presume the proposals that are being submitted are to prepare for the assumed approval of the Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill that is going through Parliament at the moment.

Part 1 of the Bill describes Strategic Authorities and only talks of unitary authorities with respect to a District Council as a single Foundation Strategic Authority.

How do your proposals relate to the current Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill that is currently going through Parliament - which kind of Strategic Authority are you looking to form with your proposals?

RESPONSE

On 16 December 2024, the Government published its English Devolution White Paper (the “White Paper”). This outlined a very clear ambition for every area in England to move towards setting up a strategic authority, led by an elected mayor, formed when two or more upper-tier authorities combine.

The White Paper outlined the powers and funding which could be devolved to such authorities, including those relating to transport, strategic planning, skills and employment, business support, environment and energy, health and public safety.

The Government also set a clear expectation that in two-tier areas, such as Leicestershire, local government be reorganised with new unitary councils established to replace district, borough and county councils.

These expectations have been confirmed in the current Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill.

In line with the above legislation, the North, City, South proposal published on 20 October, envisages the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority covering the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland geography of 1.2 million residents, sitting above three equally sized unitary councils each serving a population of approximately 400,000 residents of:

North Leicestershire and Rutland
South Leicestershire
Leicester City.