



Manuela Perteghella

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel +442072192056
manuela.perteghella.mp@parliament.uk

The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: MP07383

14 November 2025

Re: Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to set out my support for creating two new unitary councils in Warwickshire: one for the north of the county and one for the south.

Under this model, a North Warwickshire Unitary Council would bring together the boroughs of North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Rugby, while a South Warwickshire Unitary Council would combine Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts.

In the south, this structure would build on the strong and successful partnership already in place between Stratford and Warwick District Councils. The two councils already share key services such as waste collection and legal services, showing that collaboration between them works well in practice. It also reflects how people in our area live, work and travel between our two districts every day.

A South Warwickshire Unitary Council would fit naturally with the boundaries of the South Warwickshire NHS Trust and the emerging South Warwickshire Local Plan. This alignment would make it easier to join up decisions on housing, transport, health and economic growth while keeping decisions firmly rooted in the communities they affect.

The Government's guidance indicates that new unitary councils should ideally serve populations of around 500,000. I understand that this figure is a flexible benchmark, and that the Government will consider each area's particular circumstances, including geography, infrastructure, and the capacity to deliver high-quality local services. It is also vital that any new structure protects local identity and a strong sense of community, which I believe a north and south unitary model would achieve for Warwickshire.

Independent analysis by Deloitte, commissioned by all district and borough councils in Warwickshire, concluded that the two-unitary model would deliver better outcomes than a single county-wide authority against almost every measure set by the Government. It strengthens local identity, improves community engagement and enables councils to work more closely with residents, businesses and partners.

The case for two councils also reflects the distinct character and needs of north and south Warwickshire. A single county-wide structure could not respond effectively to the different challenges and opportunities faced by north and south Warwickshire.

There is now broad consensus among district and borough councils across Warwickshire that a two-unitary structure offers the most balanced, locally accountable and future-proof solution. This view is strongly supported by public opinion. In the recent 'Shaping Our Councils' survey, conducted jointly by North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick district and borough councils, 73 per cent of residents expressed their preference for two unitary councils compared with just 22 per cent for one large council covering all of Warwickshire. The two-unitary model therefore not only meets the Government's aims for efficiency and devolution but also reflects the clear preference of local people and respects Warwickshire's distinct identities and economic realities.

I believe this approach is the best way to modernise local government so that it delivers for residents, businesses, and communities. I am certain in the view that this is the right solution for Warwickshire. It will strengthen local democracy and provide better services, closer to home, that reflect the communities I represent.

I therefore urge you to give full and careful consideration to the case for establishing two unitary councils in Warwickshire.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

Manuela

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Manuela Perteghella'.

Manuela Perteghella MP
Member of Parliament for Stratford on Avon

cc: Cllr Susan Juned, Leader, Stratford-on-Avon District Council
cc: David Buckland, Chief Executive, Stratford-on-Avon District Council
cc: Cllr George Cowcher, Deputy Leader, Stratford-on-Avon District Council
cc: Tony Perks, Deputy Chief Executive, Stratford-on-Avon District Council