

**17th January 2025**

Dear Angela Rayner MP,

I am writing regarding reports that local elections could be delayed in many councils across England.

I am sure you are aware that reorganising local councils is a complex process that could take two to three years. As a result, elections are likely to be delayed for much longer than the one year that has been suggested.

**This would leave some communities with a six or seven year gap between elections while their council is reorganised.**

We think that's unacceptable.

Voters must have a say in who runs their local areas, especially when councillors are making major decisions about merging authorities. They also deserve a say on their local councils and councillors who have been in post for 4 years.

Please will you reassure the public that elections will continue as planned this year.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Brake - Director of Unlock Democracy