

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State
Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government

30th May 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

We understand that the government's Devolution Bill will be published soon.

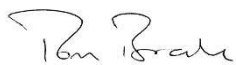
A key concern for us is the creation of “mega councils”. Merging local councils into large councils of 500,000 or more residents would take power further away from local communities. This would mean more centralisation of power and even less say for local communities.

In our survey, which over 800 local councillors in England from across the political spectrum responded to, only 17% supported councils of this size. Just 20% of councillors were optimistic that the proposals in the Devolution White Paper will improve local Government in England.

Furthermore, if these new merged councils are elected under First Past the Post, a majority of the public could be left without representation. One party could win the vast majority, or indeed all of the seats with just a third of the vote as seen in the most recent council elections.

Please ensure the Devolution Bill only includes proposals that bring power closer to the people, not further away. The Bill must also guarantee that all councils are elected using a fairer, more proportional voting system than a broken First Past the Post voting system.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Brake - Director of Unlock Democracy