

Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP
The Speaker
Speaker's House
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

11th February 2026

Dear Mr Speaker

Local Government Boundary Commission for England: business plan and Main Supply Estimate for 2026/27

I am pleased to enclose the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) business plan and Main Supply Estimate for 2026/27.

Since presenting our new corporate plan last year, we have continued to remain focused on delivering high-quality reviews that are fair and take account of local views, communities and needs. Alongside this, we have worked to provide our expertise in support of local authorities and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in their work on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

For this second year of our corporate plan, we expect these to remain key priorities for us, and this is reflected in both our business plan and our accompanying Main Supply Estimate.

Our core review programme for 2026/27 is planned to be at a similar level as for 2025/26, and we will once again make our expertise available to support the LGR process.

Also this year, in preparation for the peak of activity we expect to face further to LGR with the commitment to carry out reviews of all new unitary authorities before their next elections, we will take forward a number of improvement projects to review and refine our review processes and improve how we work, helping to maximise our capacity and develop our capability.

The views and insights of local authorities, residents and organisations remain vital in ensuring that our recommendations are informed by local needs, views and circumstances, and we are focussed on making it as easy as possible for people to engage in our work. This will be a key area of activity for us this year, with the development of a new website and the embedding of new communications approaches informed by feedback from our recent stakeholder research.

Our Main Supply Estimate is broadly in line with the five-year financial plan set out in our corporate plan. Our overall resource requirement is £157,000 (4.1%) lower than the original estimate included for this year, reflecting the removal of an additional provision that had been included for LGR related activity at a point when expectations were less clear.

Key areas of spend in 2026/27 include investment in our infrastructure and systems (£200,000), with our emerging digital strategy providing us with a framework for maximising the benefits of technology to improve our efficiency; as well as work to update our communications resources and approaches (£125,000) in light of the findings from stakeholder research carried out in early 2026. Our estimate also includes provision to ensure we can fulfil any requests for our advice or assistance relating to LGR (£70,000), specifically to ensure that we are able to access any legal advice we may require.

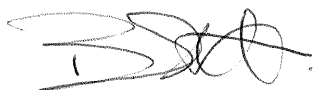
In addition, our resource budget reflects increased costs through an assumed 3.6 per cent in inflation to cover supplier cost rises and provision for a 3.6 per cent increase in salaries to cover the anticipated pay award. The pay award level is an estimate at this stage, pending the availability of civil service guidance later in the year, to which we are required to have regard in setting our remuneration.

Our capital budget, at £275,000, is primarily focussed on the redevelopment of our website to better support people to understand and engage with the review process.

We hope that this overview provides helpful context to our Main Supply Estimate and that your Committee will be assured that, as in previous years, the Commission will carry out its work efficiently and effectively.

We look forward to discussing our plans and estimate with you and your Committee on 11 March. In the meantime, if you require any further information, please contact our Director of Corporate Services, Bipun Bhakri, on bipun.bhakri@lgbce.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Beverley Smith
Chair
Local Government Boundary Commission for England