Housing, Communities
and Local Government
Committee

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

17 September 2026

Dear Angela,

Review of the Local Government Reorganisation programme

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. We have closely followed the announcements made by the Ministry over the summer recess, including on English devolution, council housebuilding, high streets, and on ending rough sleeping. We look forward to welcoming you back to our Committee to scrutinise the Ministry's work in these areas soon.

We write regarding your announcement this week of a "rapid review" into the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme, following a request from the Prime Minister and in light of new legal advice.[1] Given the impact that this announcement has had on many local authorities across England whose plans for LGR are now on pause or withdrawn, we are keen to understand how the government plans to minimise further disruption as it carries out the rapid review.

Therefore, we would be grateful for your answers to the following questions:

- **What is the remit of the review?**
- **What is the timeline for the review? When will the outcome of the review be announced?**
- **Is it the Ministry's intention for the review to focus on the strategic objectives of the LGR programme broadly, or does the Ministry intend to announce new decisions on previous proposals submitted by affected areas as the outcome of the review?**

[1] HC Deb, 7 September 2026, vol 790 col 667-668

House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

hclgcom@parliament.uk

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- **How will the Ministry ensure the review process is rigorous and legally sound, particularly in light of the advice which Ministers have received?**

- **How does the government intend to consult with local authorities, Members of Parliament, and other interested parties during the review?**

We would be grateful for your response by 8 October 2026.

Best wishes,

Members of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

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