



Tuesday, 9 June 2026 at 2.00 pm
Council Chamber - South Kesteven House, St. Peter's Hill,
Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Committee Councillor Ashley Baxter, Leader of the Council (Chairman)
Members: Councillor Paul Stokes, Deputy Leader of the Council (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Rhys Baker, Councillor Richard Cleaver, Councillor Phil Dilks, Councillor Philip Knowles, Councillor Bridget Ley and Councillor Virginia Moran

Supplement

4. **Invitation for representations regarding the Structural Changes Order for Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Lincolnshire: Response** (Pages 3 - 28)
To consider the proposed response on behalf of South Kesteven District Council to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) invitation for representations regarding the Structural Changes Order for Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Lincolnshire.

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**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Cabinet

Tuesday, 9 June 2026

Report of Councillor Ashley Baxter,
Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member
for Economic Development and HR

Invitation for representations regarding the Structural Changes Order for Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Lincolnshire: Response

Report Author

Charles James, Policy Officer

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Purpose of Report

To consider and approve the proposed response on behalf of South Kesteven District Council to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) invitation for representations regarding the Structural Changes Order for Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Lincolnshire.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to approve the proposed responses to the MHCLG invitation for representations on the contents of the Structural Changes Order, as set out at Appendix B of this report, and instruct the Chief Executive to submit the responses on behalf of the Council prior to the deadline of 16 June 2026.

Decision Information

Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Effective Council
Which wards are impacted?	All

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report but there will be a significant financial impact once a decision is formally made on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
- 1.2 As part of the business case proposal submitted to MHCLG on 28th November 2026 this set out the high-level financial implications with a number of caveats and assumptions made regarding the potential impacts. Until the final proposals are known and the configuration of authorities confirmed, the exact financial analysis cannot be developed with any more certainty.
- 1.3 Based on the learning from other authorities which have gone through LGR previously and the analysis undertaken with PwC as part of the business case development, there will be up front one-off transitional costs which will need to be funded from all Councils. These were included in the submission but the basis for the sharing of these costs hasn't yet been determined and will be an action that needs to be agreed once the final proposals are confirmed.
- 1.4 If we do receive confirmation in Summer 2026, then funding will need to be allocated to be meet this future requirement and will be incorporated in the 2027/28 Budget Framework and medium-term financial planning.

Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer.

Legal and Governance

- 1.5 Whilst the Council is under no express legal obligation to respond to the most recent consultation, doing so provides the Council with an opportunity to potentially influence the contents of the SCO prior to its implementation.
- 1.6 Responding to government consultations relating to LGR is capable of constituting an executive function. Under the executive arrangements framework established by the Local Authority (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, functions are generally executive in nature unless they are specified as non-executive by legislation or otherwise reserved to Full Council.

- 1.7 This report concerns the submission of representations only. The making and content of any Structural Change Order remains a matter for the Secretary of State in accordance with the relevant legislative framework.

Completed by: Graham Kitchen, Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 On 5 February 2025, the Government issued statutory invitations to all Councils in the 21 two-tier areas across England, and smaller unitaries, to develop proposals for unitary (single status) local government.
- 2.2 On 28 November 2025, four separate proposals for reorganisation were submitted by the authorities of the Greater Lincolnshire Invitation Area to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).
- South Kesteven District Council and North Kesteven District Council have proposed four unitary councils: a north/south division of the Lincolnshire county area and the status quo for North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire
 - Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council have proposed two unitary councils: a unitary combining City of Lincoln and West Lindsey with North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire, and a unitary for the remaining Lincolnshire county area.
 - City of Lincoln Council has proposed four unitary councils: an expanded city through the inclusion of twelve North Kesteven wards and seven West Lindsey wards, a unitary for the remaining Lincolnshire county area, and the status quo for North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire.
 - Lincolnshire County Council (supported by North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire) has proposed three unitary councils: a single unitary on the current county footprint for Lincolnshire and the status quo for North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire.
- 2.3 From 5 February 2026 to 26 March 2026, MHCLG undertook a process of statutory consultation on the four proposals. The final decision on which (if any) proposal to implement, with or without modification lies with the Secretary of State. A final decision for Greater Lincolnshire is expected to be announced in July 2026, before the Parliamentary summer recess.
- 2.4 On 19 May 2026, MHCLG wrote to all councils in Greater Lincolnshire to seek views on matters that will be necessary for the Secretary of State to consider in any Structural Changes Order (SCO) (Appendix A). A SCO is a statutory instrument (secondary legislation) that will establish a new unitary authority, make provision to abolish predecessor councils, and set out transitional and electoral arrangements.
- 2.5 The matters/questions on which the Council has been invited to make representations are:

1. *Whether you prefer a preparing council and implementation executive model (where geographies align) or a new council model with a joint committee?*
2. *How many members from each relevant council would you prefer to sit on each Joint Committee or on the Implementation Executive, including the balance of members from different councils?¹*
3. *Would you prefer for any individuals to be specified for the Chair/Deputy Chair roles, and if so, who?*
4. *What are your views on any requirement for political balance in the joint committee(s)/ implementation executive?*
5. *Who should be the returning officer for the first election to each of the new unitary councils, that proposals would see established.*
6. *What are your preferences for the membership of the Implementation Team and whether roles should be specified?*
7. *Would you prefer for any parish council elections to be aligned with elections to the new councils?*
8. *What are the current legal names of the councils and what are your preferred names for new councils?*
9. *If different to proposals, has there been any further modelling of your preferred councillors for each new councils that you would like the Secretary of State to consider, alongside any information on the rationale for the numbers?*
10. *What are your suggested wards, that reflect the proposal and councillor numbers decided, and that best meet the LGBCE guidance, for inclusion in the SCO?*

2.6 Representations for questions **one to nine** are to be made by no later than 16 June 2026. Representations on the **tenth** question regarding ward boundaries are to be made by 17 August 2026.

2.7 The representations will inform the Secretary of State's considerations on the detailed contents of the SCO. However, the final decision on the detail for inclusion in the SCO remains with the Secretary of State.

2.8 It is anticipated that MHCLG will draft the SCO during summer 2026, with a draft shared with Greater Lincolnshire authorities in autumn 2026 for fact checking. It is thought that the SCO will then be laid in Parliament in winter 2026/2027. Subject

¹ Under the New Council model (establishment of a unitary council on a new footprint), a Joint Committee is the vehicle to provide democratic governance in the period from the SCO coming into force to the first meeting of the Shadow Authority. It is responsible for developing an Implementation Plan and the draft Member Code of Conduct and a Constitution for the Shadow Authority. An Implementation Executive is utilised under a Continuing Authority model (establishment of a unitary council on an existing footprint) and serves the same function. Unlike a Joint Committee, an Implementation Executive is constituted as a committee of the 'Preparing Authority's (the continuing authority) Executive.

to Parliamentary timetabling, MHCLG anticipate that debates will take place in committee in January 2027 and that the SCO will come into force in March 2027.

- 2.9 Current expectations are that elections to the Preparing Authority/Shadow Authority(s) (the governance model depending on the LGR outcome and SCO contents) will take place on 6 May 2027. On the current LGR timeline for our area, Vesting Day for the new unitary authority is 1st April 2028.
- 2.10 Since the end of the Statutory Consultation period, all authorities in Greater Lincolnshire have closely collaborated on multiple preparatory workstreams to establish the foundations for the effective delivery of the Secretary of State's decision for Greater Lincolnshire from July 2026.
- 2.11 South Kesteven District Council has collaborated particularly closely with North Kesteven DC, although with due consideration having been given to the views of the other councils, to develop the representation (Appendix B).

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 The Government has invited the Council to make representations on the detailed contents of the Structural Change Order (SCO). This is the statutory instrument that will establish a new unitary authority, make provision for predecessor councils to be abolished, and set out the transitional and electoral arrangements.
- 3.2 A delegation is sought from Cabinet to enable the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to submit a response to Government.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The Council is under no explicit legal obligation to submit a response. However, the Council understands that representations will inform the Secretary of State's considerations on the detailed contents of the Structural Change Order. Therefore, if the Council does not submit a response, it will lose an opportunity to potentially influence the government on key elements of the future transitional and electoral arrangements.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 The Government has invited the Council to make representations on the detailed contents of the Structural Change Order (SCO). These representations will inform the considerations of the Secretary of State and thus represent an opportunity for the Council to attempt to ensure that the SCO is properly tailored to the particular circumstances of Greater Lincolnshire.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 On 20 November 2025, Full Council endorsed the Kesteven LGR proposal. The submission was the product of extensive engagement. An all-Member briefing on the transitional governance and electoral arrangements was delivered on 3 March 2026.

7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix A – Letter from MHCLG to Greater Lincolnshire Chief Executives inviting representations for the detailed contents of the Structural Changes Order, 19 May 2026
- 7.2 Appendix B – Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order for Greater Lincolnshire



Beatrice Andrews
Co-Deputy Director, Local Government
Reorganisation
**Ministry of Housing, Communities &
Local Government**
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Chief Executives of Lincolnshire, North
Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire
Councils

19 May 2026

Dear Chief Executives,

I am writing to seek your views on matters that will be necessary for the Secretary of State to consider in any Structural Changes Order (SCO). The final decision on all these matters, including whether to implement a proposal, with or without modification, lies with the Secretary of State. Seeking your views is without prejudice to whether the Secretary of State decides to implement a proposal.

For the matters below, we would appreciate your response by **Tuesday 16 June**, and if you are able to provide an earlier response this would be appreciated. This is so the Secretary of State can consider and take decisions on these matters after he has taken decisions on which proposal, if any, to implement, with or without modification. These decisions will then be shared alongside the announcement of any reorganisation decision, which we expect to make before summer recess. While all views expressed will be considered, it is ultimately for the Secretary of State to decide what to include in the legislation to ensure any new councils are well placed to go live and to implement the proposal that is chosen.

We encourage you to work together to seek to agree representations for each proposal that would affect your councils for the Secretary of State to consider. You can respond singly, jointly, or as a collective, to LGREorganisation@communities.gov.uk and to your delivery lead Kathryn Dews (kathryn.dews@communities.gov.uk). Even if agreement cannot be reached, we encourage you to discuss your thoughts with each other. If you are unable to provide a view at this stage on any of these matters, it would be helpful if this could be set out so it can be considered by ministers.

Interim implementation structures

In the event of a decision to reorganise, a SCO will provide for the creation of a new single tier of local government for the area. This could either be through the creation of an entirely new council, or by establishing the new council as a continuing authority of one of the existing councils – known as a preparing council. Our current view is that a preparing council will only be considered where there is an existing council on the same geography as the new unitary council. We understand there is interest from some in whether a preparing council model is possible where the geography is very similar – if you think this could apply then your thoughts on democratic accountability

and other practical considerations in the transition period in this model would be welcomed.

In advance of elections, the SCO requires the establishment of joint committees for each new council, or an implementation executive for any preparing council. Once elections are held – expected to be on 6 May 2027 – the executive of the shadow council or preparing council is empowered to make preparations for the new council to go live and provides direction to the implementation team. The SCO places duties on all councils to cooperate as a key principle, and it is important that transitional arrangements for reorganisation is a shared endeavour. The transitional responsibilities are set out in the [Implementation Bodies guidance](#) published on 12 March.

The SCO specifies, for each new unitary council, the membership of the joint committee/s or implementation executive. The SCO could, but does not have to, specify who is to be the Chair and could specify provisions around political balance. The joint committee/s and implementation executive would have a time and purpose limited existence given the expectation in this round of local government reorganisation that elections take place 11 months before any new unitary councils go live.

The SCO requires that an officer implementation team consisting of officers of all affected councils across the invitation area would be formed to support the implementation of the proposal through the entire transition. The SCO would specify particular roles, such as the Lead and Deputy Lead.

Elections

The SCO specifies the returning officers for the first election to each of the new unitary councils created. The SCO could also align parish council elections with the elections to the new councils.

Names

The SCO lists the councils that will be abolished and names new unitary councils. To support the timetable described above, we anticipate that decisions will be taken on naming new councils at this stage, with Ministers being guided by the information in proposals and your representations. For the avoidance of doubt, the names announced will be included in the SCO. However, it should be noted that existing legislation provides for a council to change its legal name, and councils do choose to operate with an alternative name for branding purposes.

Councillor numbers and warding arrangements for the first election

The SCO will include a schedule setting out warding arrangements and the number of councillors for each new council for the first election. We anticipate these councillors will be elected for an initial term of five years subject, of course, to Ministerial decision. While councillor numbers were included in proposals, we appreciate this may have been further refined as more detailed modelling work on warding has been undertaken. If this is the case, please do confirm your proposed councillor numbers and any rationale for this to support the Minister's final decisions on the content of the

SCO. We will need any further representations on numbers by 16 June at the latest, and ideally earlier.

With regard to your suggested warding arrangements, these can be based on any combination of existing wards, divisions and parish boundaries. We understand there may be significant work compiling this, and that you may wish to wait until after a decision on which proposal is to be implemented to finalise this work. We will need any further information on warding by **17 August** and would appreciate receiving it before this date wherever possible.

We would encourage you to consider the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's guidance, as set out on their [website](#) and in our joint webinars last year as a good place to start while drawing these up, while recognising that the usual criteria are unlikely to be met in the same way as a full review. The Commission can offer advice and guidance as you draw up these boundaries. Please do reach out to them directly if you have not already. The Commission expects to carry out an electoral review of all newly established councils after their first elections and before their subsequent elections.

Ceremonial matters

With regard to historic and ceremonial matters, we understand the importance of these and will work closely with you through the transition period to ensure these are preserved. Many matters are covered by generic regulations, or local agreements you may choose to make. Any matters requiring legislative provision, such as the establishment of Charter Trustees in unparished areas, or amendments to the Lord Lieutenancy, are normally provided for through a supplementary "mop-up" order that brings together localised and place-specific arrangements once the SCO has established the new governance framework. This approach has been used successfully in previous reorganisations, including in Cumbria, and is the approach we are taking in Surrey, and ensures historic rights and privileges are preserved while allowing the main Order to focus on the transition to new unitary arrangements. If there are any particular issues that we should be aware of, please do reach out if you have not already done so.

Timetable

The SCO is subject to the affirmative procedure and usually takes six to nine months to prepare and take through Parliament, depending on the complexity. As an indicative timetable, we hope to draft the SCO over the summer, with a version shared in the autumn for fact checking, before sending the Order for pre-legislative scrutiny and laying in Parliament around the end of the year.

Questions

In summary, for each proposal these are the questions for you to consider for 16 June or before:

- Whether you would prefer a preparing council and implementation executive model (where geographies align) or a new council model with a joint committee?

- How many members from each relevant council would you prefer to sit on each Joint Committee or implementation executive, including the balance of members from different councils?
- Would you prefer for any individuals to be specified for the Chair/Deputy Chair roles, and if so, who?
- What are your views on any requirement for political balance in the implementation executive/joint committee(s)?
- What would be your preferences for the membership of the Implementation Team and whether roles should be specified?
- Who should be the returning officer for the first election to each of the new unitary councils, that proposals would see established? (We anticipate that the SCO would specify the role at a particular council rather than an individual person)
- Confirm if you would prefer the SCO to align future parish council elections with those of the new councils and set out when parish council elections currently take place across the four year electoral cycle for each of the new council areas?
- What are the current legal names of the councils and what would be your preferred names for new councils?
- If different to proposals, has there been any further modelling of your preferred councillors for each new council that you would like the Secretary of State to consider, alongside any information on the rationale for the numbers?

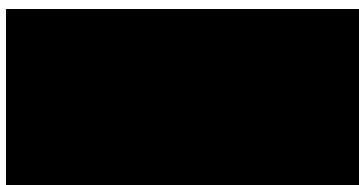
For 17 August or before:

- What are your suggested wards, that reflect the proposal and councillor numbers decided, and that best meet the LGBCE guidance, for inclusion in the SCO?

We have attached some information that sets out how this has been done previously along with links to relevant SCOs including Surrey. We would again emphasise that decisions will be taken for each area taking account of the representations across all proposals in an area and other relevant matters.

We are happy to meet to discuss these matters or for you to share initial views in our upcoming meeting on 21 May 2026. We would like the ideas that you share with us by 16 June 2026 to have political endorsement; accordingly, we ask that this letter is shared with Leaders.

Yours sincerely,



Beatrice Andrews
Co-Deputy Director, Local Government Reorganisation

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Table 1: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order for Greater Lincolnshire		
Q	Question	South Kesteven DC with North Kesteven DC Answer
1	<i>Whether you would prefer a preparing council and implementation executive model (where geographies align) or a new council model with a joint committee?</i>	A new council model with a joint committee (Note the proposal does not align with a current footprint, so an alternative model is impossible).
2	<i>How many members from each relevant council you would prefer to sit on each Joint Committee or implementation executive, including the balance of members from different councils.</i>	<p><u>Unitary 1 (South Lincolnshire)</u></p> <p>Composition: North Kesteven DC (NKDC), South Holland DC (SHDC), and South Kesteven DC (SKDC)</p> <p>Total Joint Committee Seats - 12</p> <p>Lincolnshire County Council – 6 seats North Kesteven District Council – 2 seats South Holland District Council – 2 seats South Kesteven District Council – 2 seats</p> <p><u>Unitary 2 (Central Lincolnshire)</u></p> <p>Composition: Boston BC (BBC), City of Lincoln Council (CoLC), East Lindsey DC (ELDC), and West Lindsey DC (WLDC)</p> <p>Total Joint Committee Seats – 16</p> <p>Lincolnshire County Council – 8 seats Boston Borough Council – 2 seats City of Lincoln Council – 2 seats East Lindsey District Council – 2 seats West Lindsey District Council – 2 seats</p>

Table 1: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order for Greater Lincolnshire		
Q	Question	South Kesteven DC with North Kesteven DC Answer
3	<i>Would you prefer for any individuals to be specified for the Chair/Deputy Chair roles, and if so, who?</i>	Yes – Chairperson on each Joint Committee to be from a District Council
4	<i>What are your views on any requirement for political balance in the implementation executive/joint committee(s)?</i>	<p>Political balance required for Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) members on both Joint Committees (and on an Implementation Executive in the scenario where the LCC proposal is selected).</p> <p>It is our understanding that for individual council member allocations to Joint Committees, consideration will need to be given to the political proportionality requirements set out in the Local Government & Housing Act 1989. In practice given the JC membership numbers proposed for individual district councils (maximum of 2 seats per district), political proportionality would only apply for Lincolnshire County Council member allocations in all four proposals, and to allocations from North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils in the case of the SELCP proposal. This follows the precedent of Surrey County Council, who in line with the requirements of the 1989 Act, have applied political balance when appointing their member allocation to the East Surrey JC, and West Surrey JC. For LGR in Cumbria, each district plus the county council applied political balance to their JC appointments – three members from each council.</p>
5	<i>What would be your preferences for the membership of the Implementation Team and whether roles should be specified?</i>	<p>Must include directly employed officers from each of the existing Lincolnshire district councils and from the County Council</p> <p>Named Implementation Team Lead – North Kesteven District Council Chief Executive (Katherine Marriott)</p> <p>Named Deputy Implementation Team Lead x 2 from a district council in each new unitary area if the Implementation Team Lead is from Lincolnshire County Council. South Kesteven District Council Chief Executive (Karen Bradford) to be a Deputy Implementation Team Lead.</p> <p>(Lincolnshire County Council to take one of deputy Implementation Team Lead roles if the Implementation Team Lead is from a district council)</p>

Appendix B – Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order for Greater Lincolnshire

Table 1: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order for Greater Lincolnshire		
Q	Question	South Kesteven DC with North Kesteven DC Answer
6	<i>Who should be the returning officer for the first election to each of the new unitary councils, that proposals would see established? (It is anticipated that the SCO would specify the role at a particular council rather than an individual person).</i>	<p><u>Unitary 1 (South Lincolnshire)</u></p> <p>Composition: North Kesteven DC (NKDC), South Holland DC (SHDC), and South Kesteven DC (SKDC)</p> <p>Returning Officer (RO) – South Kesteven DC (Karen Bradford, Chief Executive)</p> <p><u>Unitary 2 (Central Lincolnshire)</u></p> <p>Composition: Boston BC (BBC), City of Lincoln Council (CoLC), East Lindsey DC (ELDC), and West Lindsey DC (WLDC)</p> <p>Returning Officer (RO) – any of Boston BC (BBC), City of Lincoln Council (CoLC), East Lindsey DC (ELDC), and West Lindsey DC (WLDC)</p>
7	<i>Would you prefer for any parish council elections to be aligned with elections to the new councils?</i>	YES
8a.	<i>What are the current legal names of the councils?</i>	<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p> <p>Boston Borough Council</p> <p>City of Lincoln Council</p> <p>East Lindsey District Council</p> <p>North Kesteven District Council</p> <p>South Holland District Council</p> <p>South Kesteven District Council</p> <p>West Lindsey District Council</p>

Table 1: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order for Greater Lincolnshire		
Q	Question	South Kesteven DC with North Kesteven DC Answer
8b.	<i>What would be your preferred names for new councils?</i>	<p><u>Unitary 1 - South Lincolnshire Council</u></p> <p>Composition: North Kesteven DC (NKDC), South Holland DC (SHDC), and South Kesteven DC (SKDC)</p> <p><u>Unitary 2 - Central Lincolnshire Council</u></p> <p>Composition: Boston BC (BBC), City of Lincoln Council (CoLC), East Lindsey DC (ELDC), and West Lindsey DC (WLDC)</p>
9	<i>If different to proposals, has there been any further modelling of your preferred councillors for each new council that you would like the Secretary of State to consider, alongside any information on the rationale for the numbers?</i>	Proposed councillor numbers remain as set out in the North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC LGR proposal.
10	<i>What are your suggested wards, that reflect the proposal and councillor numbers decided, and that best meet the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) guidance, for inclusion in the SCO.</i>	<p>South Kesteven DC and North Kesteven DC as per the NK/SK submission propose to retain the existing 70 divisions within the Lincolnshire County Council area, increasing all to dual rather than single member wards in both new unitaries. This would see 34 dual member wards in the new South Lincolnshire Council and 36 dual member wards in the new Central Lincolnshire Council.</p> <p>The split of divisions (hereafter referred to as wards) between the two new unitary councils proposed by North Kesteven and South Kesteven is set out in Tables 2 and 3 below.</p> <p>In all instances it is currently proposed to retain the existing division name and boundary for each new unitary ward – subject to any future review by the LGBCE.</p>

Table 2: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order under the proposals for the Invitation Area by other Greater Lincolnshire councils				
Q	Question	City of Lincoln Proposal	Lincolnshire County Council with North Lincolnshire & North East Lincolnshire Proposal	South & East Lincolnshire Council’s Partnership (SELCP) Proposal
1	<i>Whether you would prefer a preparing council and implementation executive model (where geographies align) or a new council model with a joint committee?</i>	A new council model with a joint committee (Note the proposal does not align with a current footprint, so an alternative model is impossible).	Our strong preference is for a new council model with a Joint Committee.	A new council model with a joint committee (Note the proposal does not align with a current footprint, so an alternative model is impossible).
2	<i>How many members from each relevant council you would prefer to sit on each Joint Committee or implementation executive, including the balance of members from different councils.</i>	Whilst the Council would prefer equal representation across all councils – be they district, county or unitary – it recognises the direction set for both Surrey and the Devolution Priority Programme areas and our proposals for Joint Committee numbers below reflect this		
		Unitary 1 City of Lincoln with parts of North Kesteven DC & West Lindsey DC Total Joint Committee Seats – 12 Lincolnshire County Council – 6 City of Lincoln Council – 2 North Kesteven District Council – 2 West Lindsey District Council – 2	Single unitary for the Lincolnshire County Council area Total Joint Committee Seats - 14 Lincolnshire County Council – 7 Boston Borough Council – 1 City of Lincoln Council – 1 East Lindsey District Council – 1 North Kesteven District Council – 1 South Holland District Council – 1 South Kesteven District Council – 1 West Lindsey District Council – 1	Unitary 1 North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, City of Lincoln, West Lindsey DC Total Joint Committee Seats - 14 Lincolnshire County Council – 4 North Lincolnshire Council – 4 North East Lincolnshire Council – 4 City of Lincoln Council – 2 West Lindsey District Council - 2

Table 2: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order under the proposals for the Invitation Area by other Greater Lincolnshire councils				
Q	Question	City of Lincoln Proposal	Lincolnshire County Council with North Lincolnshire & North East Lincolnshire Proposal	South & East Lincolnshire Council’s Partnership (SELCP) Proposal
		<p>Unitary 2 Boston BC, East Lindsey DC, South Holland DC and South Kesteven DC with parts of North Kesteven DC and West Lindsey DC.</p> <p>Total Joint Committee Seats – 12</p> <p>Lincolnshire County Council – 6 Boston Borough Council – 1 East Lindsey District Council – 1 North Kesteven District Council – 1 South Holland District Council – 1 South Kesteven District Council – 1 West Lindsey District Council – 1</p>	<p>We would also advocate the same structure and councillor numbers for an Implementation Executive should the LCC submission be selected by the Secretary of State for implementation as a preparing council</p>	<p>Unitary 2 Boston BC, East Lindsey DC, North Kesteven DC, South Holland DC and South Kesteven DC</p> <p>Total Joint Committee Seats - 10</p> <p>Lincolnshire County Council – 5 Boston Borough Council – 1 East Lindsey District Council – 1 North Kesteven District Council – 1 South Holland District Council – 1 South Kesteven District Council – 1</p>
3	<i>Would you prefer for any individuals to be specified for the Chair/Deputy Chair roles, and if so, who?</i>	No	No	No

Table 2: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order under the proposals for the Invitation Area by other Greater Lincolnshire councils				
Q	Question	City of Lincoln Proposal	Lincolnshire County Council with North Lincolnshire & North East Lincolnshire Proposal	South & East Lincolnshire Council’s Partnership (SELCP) Proposal
4	<i>What are your views on any requirement for political balance in the implementation executive/joint committee(s)?</i>	<p>Joint Committees It is our understanding that for individual council member allocations to Joint Committees, consideration will need to be given to the political proportionality requirements set out in the Local Government & Housing Act 1989. In practice given the JC membership numbers proposed for individual district councils (maximum of 2 seats per district), political proportionality would only apply for Lincolnshire County Council member allocations in all four proposals, and to allocations from North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils in the case of the SELCP proposal. This follows the precedent of Surrey County Council, who in line with the requirements of the 1989 Act, have applied political balance when appointing their member allocation to the East Surrey JC, and West Surrey JC. For LGR in Cumbria, each district plus the county council applied political balance to their JC appointments – three members from each council.</p> <p>Transition Executive We are of the view that the same arguments apply for an Implementation Executive.</p>		
		Political balance required for LCC members on both Joint Committees	Political balance required for LCC members on the Joint Committee, and, if a preparing council, on the Implementation Executive.	Political balance required for LCC members on both Joint Committees. Political balance required for NL and NEL members on the Unitary 1 Joint Committee.

Table 2: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order under the proposals for the Invitation Area by other Greater Lincolnshire councils				
Q	Question	City of Lincoln Proposal	Lincolnshire County Council with North Lincolnshire & North East Lincolnshire Proposal	South & East Lincolnshire Council's Partnership (SELCP) Proposal
5	<i>What would be your preferences for the membership of the Implementation Team and whether roles should be specified?</i>	<p>Must include directly employed officers from each of the existing Lincolnshire district councils and from the County Council</p> <p>Named SRO</p> <p>Named Deputy SRO x 2 from a district council in each new unitary area if SRO from LCC</p> <p>(county take one of deputy SRO roles if SRO from a district council)</p>	<p>Must include directly employed officers from each of the existing Lincolnshire district councils and from the County Council</p> <p>Named SRO</p> <p>Named Deputy SRO from a district council if SRO from LCC</p> <p>(county take deputy SRO role if SRO from a district council)</p>	<p>Must include directly employed officers from each of the existing Lincolnshire district councils, from the County Council and from both existing unitary councils</p> <p>Named SRO</p> <p>Named Deputy SRO x 2 One from a district council, one from a unitary council</p> <p>(county take deputy SRO role, if SRO from one of the existing unitary councils, or from a district council)</p>

Table 2: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order under the proposals for the Invitation Area by other Greater Lincolnshire councils				
Q	Question	City of Lincoln Proposal	Lincolnshire County Council with North Lincolnshire & North East Lincolnshire Proposal	South & East Lincolnshire Council’s Partnership (SELCP) Proposal
6	<i>Who should be the returning officer for the first election to each of the new unitary councils, that proposals would see established? (It is anticipated that the SCO would specify the role at a particular council rather than an individual person).</i>	<p>The Council recommends that given the experience of District Councils in planning and delivering elections the returning officer should be from a district council within each new unitary area.</p> <p>Returning officer plus deputy in each new unitary to be from an existing district council within that area.</p> <p><u>Unitary 1</u> City of Lincoln with parts of North Kesteven DC & West Lindsey DC</p> <p>Returning Officer (RO) – any of City of Lincoln Council , North Kesteven DC and West Lindsey DC</p> <p><u>Unitary 2</u> Boston BC, East Lindsey DC, South Holland DC and South Kesteven DC with parts of North Kesteven DC and West Lindsey DC.</p> <p>Returning Officer (RO) – South Kesteven DC (Karen Bradford, Chief Executive)</p>	<p>Returning officer plus deputy to be from existing district councils.</p> <p><u>Single unitary for the Lincolnshire County Council area</u></p> <p>Returning Officer (RO) – South Kesteven DC (Karen Bradford, Chief Executive)</p>	<p>Returning officer plus deputy to be from an existing district council, or in the case of the proposed new northern unitary from an existing district or unitary council</p> <p><u>Unitary 1</u> North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, City of Lincoln, West Lindsey DC</p> <p>Returning Officer (RO) – any of North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, City of Lincoln Council, West Lindsey DC (WLDC)</p> <p><u>Unitary 2</u> Boston BC, East Lindsey DC, North Kesteven DC, South Holland DC and South Kesteven DC</p> <p>Returning Officer (RO) – South Kesteven DC (Karen Bradford, Chief Executive)</p>

Table 2: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order under the proposals for the Invitation Area by other Greater Lincolnshire councils				
Q	Question	City of Lincoln Proposal	Lincolnshire County Council with North Lincolnshire & North East Lincolnshire Proposal	South & East Lincolnshire Council’s Partnership (SELCP) Proposal
7	<i>Would you prefer for any parish council elections to be aligned with elections to the new councils?</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
8a	<i>What are the current legal names of the councils and</i>	<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p> <p>Boston Borough Council</p> <p>City of Lincoln Council</p> <p>East Lindsey District Council</p> <p>North Kesteven District Council</p> <p>South Holland District Council</p> <p>South Kesteven District Council</p> <p>West Lindsey District Council</p>	<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p> <p>North East Lincolnshire Council</p> <p>North Lincolnshire Council</p> <p>Boston Borough Council</p> <p>City of Lincoln Council</p> <p>East Lindsey District Council</p> <p>North Kesteven District Council</p> <p>South Holland District Council</p> <p>South Kesteven District Council</p> <p>West Lindsey District Council</p>	

Table 2: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order under the proposals for the Invitation Area by other Greater Lincolnshire councils				
Q	Question	City of Lincoln Proposal	Lincolnshire County Council with North Lincolnshire & North East Lincolnshire Proposal	South & East Lincolnshire Council’s Partnership (SELCP) Proposal
8b	<i>What would be your preferred names for new councils?</i>	The Council considers further thought to the current names as proposed - City of Lincoln and Rural Lincolnshire – is required. Neither of these names give a true geographic representation.	<p>If the LCC proposal were to be chosen by the Secretary of State our preference would be for the new unitary to be named:</p> <p>Lincolnshire Council</p> <p>As opposed to Lincolnshire County Council.</p>	<p>Further discussion needed with all councils. If names based on geographic areas these need to reflect actual geography.</p> <p>The SELCP proposals refers to Southern Lincolnshire though this unitary includes existing districts, most specifically East Lindsey, which few if any people would consider as being in the south of Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Likewise the second unitary, referred to as Northern Lincolnshire contains areas such as Lincoln and much of West Lindsey which sits south of parts of “Southern Lincolnshire”.</p> <p>We accept that the geography of the proposal does pose naming challenges, but feel that further thought is required.</p>

Table 2: Joint Representations from North Kesteven DC and South Kesteven DC regarding the Structural Changes Order under the proposals for the Invitation Area by other Greater Lincolnshire councils				
Q	Question	City of Lincoln Proposal	Lincolnshire County Council with North Lincolnshire & North East Lincolnshire Proposal	South & East Lincolnshire Council’s Partnership (SELCP) Proposal
9	<i>If different to proposals, has there been any further modelling of your preferred councillors for each new council that you would like the Secretary of State to consider, alongside any information on the rationale for the numbers?</i>	Current proposal should be re-worked as there exists a democratic deficit between the number of City of Lincoln councillors proposed and the number of “Rural Lincolnshire” councillors proposed.	Current proposal should be re-worked as there exists a democratic deficit between the number of councillors proposed (70 for the whole of Lincolnshire) compared to the representation afforded to the two northern unitaries.	The Council is not yet aware of suggested warding arrangements for the SELCP proposal but notes the likely warding arrangement complexity in particular for the merging of North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, West Lindsey and Lincoln into a single unitary.

Table 3: Proposed Wards and Councillor Numbers for South Lincolnshire Council

34 wards, 68 unitary councillors

Legacy District Council	Lincolnshire County Council Division name	New unitary ward name	Ward Councillors
North Kesteven	Bassingham Welbourn	Bassingham Welbourn	2
North Kesteven	Eagle & Hykeham West	Eagle & Hykeham West	2
North Kesteven	Heckington	Heckington	2
North Kesteven	Hykeham Forum	Hykeham Forum	2
North Kesteven	Metheringham Rural	Metheringham Rural	2
North Kesteven	Potterhanworth & Coleby	Potterhanworth & Coleby	2
North Kesteven	Ruskington	Ruskington	2
North Kesteven	Sleaford	Sleaford	2
North Kesteven	Sleaford Rural	Sleaford Rural	2
North Kesteven	Waddington & Hykeham East	Waddington & Hykeham East	2
North Kesteven	Washingborough	Washingborough	2
South Holland	Crowland	Crowland	2
South Holland	Donington Rural	Donington Rural	2
South Holland	Holbeach	Holbeach	2
South Holland	Holbeach Rural	Holbeach Rural	2
South Holland	Spalding East	Spalding East	2
South Holland	Spalding Elloe	Spalding Elloe	2
South Holland	Spalding South	Spalding South	2
South Holland	Spalding West	Spalding West	2
South Holland	The Suttons	The Suttons	2
South Kesteven	Bourne North And Morton	Bourne North And Morton	2
South Kesteven	Bourne South And Thurlby	Bourne South And Thurlby	2
South Kesteven	Colsterworth Rural	Colsterworth Rural	2
South Kesteven	Deepings East	Deepings East	2
South Kesteven	Deepings West And Rural	Deepings West And Rural	2
South Kesteven	Folkingham Rural	Folkingham Rural	2
South Kesteven	Grantham Barrowby	Grantham Barrowby	2
South Kesteven	Grantham East	Grantham East	2
South Kesteven	Grantham North	Grantham North	2
South Kesteven	Grantham South	Grantham South	2
South Kesteven	Grantham West	Grantham West	2
South Kesteven	Hough	Hough	2
South Kesteven	Stamford East	Stamford East	2
South Kesteven	Stamford West	Stamford West	2

Table 4: Proposed Wards and Councillor Numbers for Central Lincolnshire Council

36 wards, 72 unitary councillors

Legacy District Council	Lincolnshire County Council Division name	New unitary ward name	Ward Councillors
Boston	Boston Coastal	Boston Coastal	2
Boston	Boston North	Boston North	2
Boston	Boston Rural	Boston Rural	2
Boston	Boston Skirbeck	Boston Skirbeck	2
Boston	Boston South	Boston South	2
Boston	Boston West	Boston West	2
East Lindsey	Alford & Sutton	Alford & Sutton	2
East Lindsey	Horncastle & The Keals	Horncastle & The Keals	2
East Lindsey	Ingoldmells Rural	Ingoldmells Rural	2
East Lindsey	Louth North	Louth North	2
East Lindsey	Louth South	Louth South	2
East Lindsey	Louth Wolds	Louth Wolds	2
East Lindsey	Mablethorpe	Mablethorpe	2
East Lindsey	Saltfleet & The Cotes	Saltfleet & The Cotes	2
East Lindsey	Skegness North	Skegness North	2
East Lindsey	Skegness South	Skegness South	2
East Lindsey	Tattershall Castle	Tattershall Castle	2
East Lindsey	Wainfleet	Wainfleet	2
East Lindsey	Woodhall Spa & Wragby	Woodhall Spa & Wragby	2
Lincoln	Birchwood	Birchwood	2
Lincoln	Boultham	Boultham	2
Lincoln	Carholme	Carholme	2
Lincoln	Ermine And Cathedral	Ermine And Cathedral	2
Lincoln	Hartsholm	Hartsholm	2
Lincoln	Park	Park	2
Lincoln	St Giles	St Giles	2
Lincoln	Swallow Beck And Witham	Swallow Beck And Witham	2
West Lindsey	Bardney & Cherry Willingham	Bardney & Cherry Willingham	2
West Lindsey	Gainsborough Hill	Gainsborough Hill	2
West Lindsey	Gainsborough Rural South	Gainsborough Rural South	2
West Lindsey	Gainsborough Trent	Gainsborough Trent	2
West Lindsey	Market Rasen Wolds	Market Rasen Wolds	2
West Lindsey	Nettleham & Saxilby	Nettleham & Saxilby	2
West Lindsey	North Wolds	North Wolds	2
West Lindsey	Scotter Rural	Scotter Rural	2
West Lindsey	Welton Rural	Welton Rural	2