

Councillor Sean Matthews
Tattershall Castle
Leader
Lincolnshire County Council
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln LN1 1YL

Email: CllrS.Matthews@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Date: 24th October 2025

Dear Cllr Matthews,

RE: Letter of Support for 'Your Lincolnshire', Lincolnshire County Council's Local Government Reorganisation Proposal.

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR) is Supportive of 'Your Lincolnshire', the proposed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) model that seeks to maintain the integrity and unity of Lincolnshire as a single, cohesive area.

LFR operates within a coterminous area with Lincolnshire, delivering critical emergency services to urban centres, rural communities, and coastal areas alike. Our operational effectiveness benefits from a consistent and coordinated approach to governance, planning, and service delivery. Fragmentation of the county would risk undermining the integrated partnerships we rely on to protect lives and property.

Strategically, the reorganisation of unitary boundaries that would result in more than 1 fire and rescue service serving in a single unitary could create conflicting standards of operational response in a single unitary. By being coterminous with the unitary area that LFR serve, this gives full autonomy for the Fire Authority to strategically plan, resource and support the full range of statutory duties of the Fire and Rescue Service. Fragmentation of coordination mechanisms risks delays in vital decision-making processes that cross newly established jurisdictional boundaries. The disruption of well-established strategic planning frameworks can undermine community risk management strategies and weaken overall emergency preparedness across Lincolnshire. The potential duplication of governance functions—covering budget setting, scrutiny and oversight of the delivery of LFR strategic objectives—threatens to erode existing efficiencies. The loss of economies of scale inherent in a single, county-wide service is likely to increase the financial demand on the provision of Fire and Rescue Services. We strongly believe that keeping Lincolnshire together under a unified local government model will enhance strategic alignment, improve



Lincolnshire
FIRE & RESCUE

public safety outcomes, and support the resilience of our emergency services. The proposed reorganisation reflects a shared vision for the county—one that values collaboration, efficiency, and community identity.

LFR welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the transition process and is committed to working closely with partners to ensure continuity of service and the successful implementation of the new arrangements. We are confident that this proposal will strengthen Lincolnshire's ability to meet future challenges and deliver high-quality services to its residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information or wish to discuss our support in more detail.

Your sincerely,

Mark Baxter
Chief Fire Officer