



**Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government**

Jim McMahon OBE MP

*Minister of State for Local Government and
English Devolution*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: MC2025/10340

Cllr Graham Butland
Chair of the East of England Local Government
Association
Leader of Braintree District Council
West Sussex house
Western Way
Bury St Edmunds
IP33 3YU

25 April 2025

Dear Cllr Butland,

Thank you for your letter of March 27, and for the hard work of your member authorities in preparing their interim plans for the March 21 deadline. I appreciate this was a demanding request, requiring a considerable workload across local government staff.

MHCLG officials are currently analysing all proposals and preparing feedback and will be providing written and verbal feedback to councils on the issues they have raised, which you have outlined in your letter. We are keen to provide bespoke support to areas, and each area will be provided with a MHCLG point person who will support councils' queries throughout the process.

We have been clear that reorganisation should not delay devolution and plans for both should be complementary, and we look forward to working with councils as they progress through both devolution and local government reorganisation.

Thank you again for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

JIM MCMAHON OBE MP

Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution