

# STOP THE **TORY** POWER GRAB



Say **NO** to the anti-democratic planning changes & local government reorganisation  
Say **YES** to local decisions, by local people, in local communities!

[www.local.gov.uk/lga-lib-dem-group](http://www.local.gov.uk/lga-lib-dem-group)

Liberal Democrat Local Government spokesperson **Tim Farron MP** said:

**Local people will be amazed that the government are choosing this moment to force a top-down reorganisation on social care, schools and councils when instead they need to be focussing 100 per cent on helping us to recover from this crisis. The Tories are out of touch if they think this wasteful distraction is more important than getting our community back on its feet.**

**Good Practice from across the country on how we are opposing local government reorganisation plans and proposed planning changes:**

# Local government reorganisation

**Gloucester Lib Dems have said their city is under threat from unitary plan**

<https://tinyurl.com/y62we2zu>

**Somerset's District Councils (three of which are either Lib Dem run or Lib Dem led) have issued this joint statement on unitarisation**

<https://tinyurl.com/y4yj8cm6>

**Surrey: The Tory plan to abolish District Councils in Surrey and create one monster council**

<https://tinyurl.com/yyrbhmm4>

**The cross-party administration (including Lib Dems) in Pendle submitted this motion on Combined Authorities and Mayors**

<https://tinyurl.com/y3pva8l6>

**Watford's Mayor has opposed the creation of a county unitary and is working with neighbouring districts on the issue**

<https://tinyurl.com/y6bgryya>

**District Council's Network report can be seen here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/yy3cou5t>

**Letter from over 30 Liberal Democrat Council Leaders on local government reorganisation published in the Municipal Journal here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/yyer9wqr>

## Lib Dems slam planning changes

**We have some great motions against the plans below in Bury, Watford and Calderdale:**

- [Bury motion](https://tinyurl.com/y2m9skk3)
- [Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13.0](https://tinyurl.com/y25xbdfq)
- [Planning Motion 2 \(Word\)](https://tinyurl.com/y3pkaqso)

**Councillor fears new planning rules represent a concern for Saddleworth – localise and use**

- [Press release](https://tinyurl.com/y69c4jrr)

**Commenting on the Government's plans to overhaul our planning system, LGA Liberal Democrat Group Leader Councillor Howard Sykes said:** "The Prime Minister has promised 'the most radical reforms of our planning system since the end of the Second World War'. Not again please.



Will the Government wake up to the FACT that councils aren't the problem with getting homes built nor is the planning system?

He added: "How many times do we have to say that councils approve nine in 10 applications? The Government conveniently forgets the thousands of planning applications that are sitting there without a brick being laid. Hundreds of thousands of homes lay unbuilt. We need powers to force developers to build these out.

Don't demonise us and point the finger again at local government blaming us. We don't need rhetoric – we need partnership."

**Lib Dem Lords speak out against planning changes**

Baroness Jenny Randerson adds: "I have spoken out in the Lords against Conservative Government regulations which will allow developers to build on top of existing blocks of flats up to five storeys. We had five Lib Dem speakers all fiercely opposed to this. This is going to be a major issue for local planning authorities."

- [Numbers of households on local authorities' waiting lists by district, England, 1997-2019](https://tinyurl.com/yxjqk35v)
- [Template press release on planning](https://tinyurl.com/y3yya4f6)