



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Cllr. David Whipp
Leader of Pendle Borough Council

29 January 2026

Dear Councillor Whipp,

On 22 January, I informed Parliament that I would not be including the election to Pendle Borough Council in the legislation to postpone certain local elections in May 2026 for one year. I also set out that my decisions were taken after weighing up the representations received and having carefully considered arguments made about capacity, reorganisation and democracy, along with Council's views.

Since that statement, I have considered further representations from the Chief Executive and Deputy Leader on behalf of Pendle Borough Council, received by email on 23 January, that provided further evidence of how postponing the election would enable the Council to release capacity to support the delivery of reorganisation. Having considered this additional submission before bringing forward the legislation for postponing other elections, and also the representations previously received from your Council, other councils across Lancashire, and a range of other interested parties, I am now writing to confirm that **I will include the election to Pendle Borough Council in the legislation to postpone local elections.**

I am grateful for your continued engagement on this matter and for the constructive approach Pendle Borough Council has taken to local government reorganisation. A copy of this letter will be deposited in the House of Commons Library in order to inform Parliament of my decision, and published on gov.uk.

I am copying this letter to your Chief Executive, the Leaders and Chief Executives of other councils in Lancashire, as well as to local Members of Parliament and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON STEVE REED OBE MP

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government