



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Nesil Caliskan MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
2 Marsham Street
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Our reference: MC2026/13459

Helen Morgan MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

27 May 2026

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your email of 8 May to the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP, on behalf of your constituent Town and Parish Councils in North Shropshire regarding the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act. I am responding as this matter falls under my Ministerial portfolio.

The Government recognises the important role that town and parish councils play in supporting local communities. The main goal of neighbourhood governance is to move decision-making closer to residents, so decisions are made by people who understand local needs.

As part of this, the neighbourhood governance duty requires local authorities to engage parish councils, where they exist, on their representation on the neighbourhood governance arrangements in their area

The introduction of neighbourhood governance arrangements is not about replacing or reducing the role of parish and town councils. Instead, it is about complementing their work and ensuring that all communities, whether or not they have a parish or town council, have effective ways to engage with their local authority.

We will continue to engage with local government, and the parish and communities sector to ensure that we understand best practice ahead of providing guidance and laying regulations in due course.

Thank you for writing on this important matter and I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

NESIL CALISKAN MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State