



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

13 December 2018

Richard Ellis  
Chief Executive  
South Northamptonshire District Council  
The Forum  
Moat Lane Towcester  
Northants  
NN12 6AD

*Dear Richard,*

**Election Postponement in Northamptonshire**

On 29 November 2018, I wrote to let you know that the Secretary of State had launched a consultation on the proposal from seven of the eight principal councils in Northamptonshire to establish two unitary councils for the county, and that he had decided to postpone the 2019 local elections in Northamptonshire. I am now writing to inform you that an Order to postpone those elections has been made and laid before Parliament.

The Order will come into force on 14 January 2019 and will postpone for one year the 2019 local elections in Northamptonshire – these are for the seven districts and boroughs and the parish councils in Northamptonshire. We believe that taking this step will give your authorities the certainty that you requested in your letter dated 26 October 2018. Once this Order comes into force, the next scheduled elections for Northamptonshire district and parish councils will be the ordinary day of elections in 2020, subject to any reorganisation that may take effect before this day.

The Secretary of State has not yet considered the councils' unitary proposal or assessed its merits, and making this Order does not in any way predetermine any decisions on whether or not to implement the councils' proposal. Should it be decided not to implement the councils' proposal, then those postponed district and parish council elections will take place in 2020 and then revert to the current electoral cycle.

Yours sincerely,

*Paul Rowsell*

**P ROWSELL**

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