

From: [PERTEGHELLA, Manuela \(MP\)](#)
To: [Vanessa Lowe](#)
Subject: RE: Neighbourhood Governance
Date: 19 April 2026 22:09:10
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Vanessa

Many thanks for your letter.

I was appointed to the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill Committee where we look at the proposed legislation in detail, including neighbourhood governance, and have submitted several amendments in my name to give a voice to parish and town councils. I asked specifically for the future county combined authorities and/or Mayoral combined authorities to have a duty to consult with town and parish councils on a series of issues and policies, ensuring decisions are shaped by local voice.

Links below to some of my spoken contributions during the scrutiny of the Bill:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-11-24/debates/1CA9CE72-4A0A-42DB-81C6-77CB5605D73E/details#contribution-93618D5E-0FA1-40CA-BDC1-4BDB5144BA61>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-10-21/debates/e486438c-2c82-486b-a1fb-d6695ec7630f/details#contribution-4CF7F2B2-2D10-4E21-9359-384AEA1ED772>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-10-21/debates/e486438c-2c82-486b-a1fb-d6695ec7630f/details#contribution-56EA6681-DEB3-4769-94DD-902AA9C838AD>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-10-23/debates/db85ff97-9c9a-481c-8283-620fe92a34db/details#contribution-77C7019A-159D-4886-929B-E941CCB71031>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-11-24/debates/1CA9CE72-4A0A-42DB-81C6-77CB5605D73E/details#contribution-143920AD-57F4-4C04-9654-B1165400A0C2>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-10-23/debates/db85ff97-9c9a-481c-8283-620fe92a34db/details#contribution-5554E50A-13BC-4A6E-BCEA-4EACE96A0BDD>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-10-28/debates/4f7d80a2-11cd-4689-a0d8-2ea1de948a22/details#contribution-F904D66C-C8E3-4E46-9221-02B3F0CAF44B>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-10-23/debates/db85ff97-9c9a-481c-8283-620fe92a34db/details#contribution-27A9B926-FFB1-47EE-8C01-8BB3C9C8C063>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-10-28/debates/4f7d80a2-11cd-4689-a0d8-2ea1de948a22/details#contribution-AA697A7F-98C9-49A1-B5BC-9759523DC304>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-10-23/debates/db85ff97-9c9a-481c->

[8283-620fe92a34db/details#contribution-B289B7F5-A84B-459A-A1B9-DF51803E19B7](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-10-23/debates/db85ff97-9c9a-481c-8283-620fe92a34db/details#contribution-B289B7F5-A84B-459A-A1B9-DF51803E19B7)

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-10-23/debates/db85ff97-9c9a-481c-8283-620fe92a34db/details#contribution-CFFBE5C2-2160-4C47-B8B2-0B741D0A932F>

During the Bill's Committee stage, we tabled over 75 amendments to address the Bill's overly-centralised approach to devolution, preventing locally-elected officials from having a voice in decisions, and establishing vast new unitary authorities which run the risk of overriding economic zones, physical geography, public service alignments (including health, transport, and emergency services), as well as community identity, cohesion and pride.

Disappointingly, none of these amendments were supported by the Government at committee stage.

The Government can decide whether these amendments get considered or not, and I find it frustrating sometimes that they turn down perfectly good amendments that would strengthen the legislation, on party grounds.

I believe constitutional reform is not an abstract exercise, but a vital step towards a fairer and more representative democracy. For too long, power has been concentrated in Westminster, leaving communities across England feeling distant from the decisions that shape their lives. Devolution is about correcting that imbalance.

We also submitted amendments at Reports stage (Third Reading of the Bill) including the following:

- **Amendment 53:** to require the Secretary of State to consult town and parish councils prior to the unitary district council or county council within which they are situated being designated as a single foundation strategic authority.
- **Amendment 57:** to require environmental interests to be considered as a criterion for establishing a local authority's area as land of community value.
- **Amendment 64:** to require local authorities to provide support for the preferred community buyer in agreeing and meeting an offer to buy land of community value.
- **Amendment 69:** to require that the make-up of Mayoral Development Corporation boards must have a majority of members from constituent councils.
- **Amendments 72 and 73:** to ensure mayors must consider specific community matters when consulting with local partners, including health, environmental, funding, planning, transport, education and green space provisions.

I opposed the Bill eventually, because it centralises powers instead of meaningfully devolving this power back into communities.

I will continue to make the case for town and parish councils to be involved in any strategic decision in new authorities.

Warmest wishes
Manuela



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From: Vanessa Lowe <clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk>

Sent: 15 April 2026 15:58

To: PERTEGHELLA, Manuela (MP) <manuela.perteghella.mp@parliament.uk>

Subject: Neighbourhood Governance

Good afternoon

Please see the attached letter from Alcester Town Council.

Kind regards

Vanessa

Vanessa Lowe

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