# Nigel Farage plans radical local government cuts inspired by Trump and Musk following Reform UK election surge



Nigel Farage, the leader of Reform UK, has made significant commitments to reshape local government spending, drawing inspiration from the fiscal strategies implemented by former US President Donald Trump and tech entrepreneur Elon Musk. Appointed as the head of the newly established Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), Farage plans to push for substantial budget cuts within local council operations and a reduction of job positions linked to climate change, diversity, and remote work.

This announcement follows an exceptional showing for Reform UK in recent local elections, where the party secured control of ten councils and captured hundreds of local seats. In a sweeping political shift, the Conservative Party lost all council seats they contested, totalling 676 seats, while Labour had a net loss of 186 seats. Reform UK now holds majorities in key counties like Kent, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Lancashire.

Addressing council workers in Durham, where the Labour Party previously held dominance, Farage advised those in roles related to climate initiatives and diversity to seek "alternative careers very, very quickly." He expressed dissatisfaction with county councils' financial management, particularly regarding spending on consultants and non-essential projects such as climate change initiatives. On BBC Radio 4's Today programme, he stated, "We are deeply dissatisfied with the way that county councils and unitaries in Britain have been running their budgets."

Farage aims to implement an audit of long-term contracts and initiatives that have been previously implemented by local councils. He intends to foster a shift in culture by discontinuing remote work arrangements, indicating that while this may not resolve every issue, it is a necessary starting point.

Emphasising the importance of transparency, Farage asserted he would be able to demonstrate how much money has been saved within six months. He argued that “local government has gone under the radar for way too long,” implying that taxpayers deserve more accountability, especially when facing increasing council tax bills.

However, experts in local government finance have cautioned against the feasibility of Farage's proposals. Jonathon Carr-West, chief executive of the Local Government Information Unit, remarked that many councils have already seen significant cuts to their funding, primarily used for statutory services such as adult social care and safeguarding children. He pointed out that with many local authorities carrying debts of £100 million or more, finding extensive savings through efficiency reforms may not be realistic. "They are literally life-or-death issues," he stated, stressing the vital nature of the services at risk.

Farage's assertions have emerged in conjunction with claims that local councils spend money on what some consider frivolous activities, such as free driving lessons for asylum seekers and international trips for civil servants. While Farage has highlighted these expenditures to bolster his case for cuts, Carr-West noted that spending in these areas constitutes a small portion of overall council budgets and serves to fulfil legal obligations under the Equality Act.

The latest electoral feedback places Reform UK with a projected national vote share of 30%, positioning them ahead of Labour at 20%, the Liberal Democrats at 17%, and the Conservative Party at 15%. This shift underscores the changing political landscape and the growing appetite among voters for alternatives beyond traditional parties. Farage's future actions within local government and their impacts will likely remain under close scrutiny as he implements his plans.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/nigel-farages-reform-uk-party-ahead-by-four-votes-key-election-race-2025-05-02/> - This article reports on Reform UK's significant electoral gains, including winning a parliamentary seat in Runcorn and Helsby by a narrow six-vote margin, capturing the mayoralty of Greater Lincolnshire, and taking control of Staffordshire and Durham county councils, as well as other local councils.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/dd6dff7d-c2c4-49ec-a11e-eb9e2130ccbb> - This piece discusses the surge in right-wing populism in Britain, highlighting Reform UK's electoral success in the 2025 local elections, including winning the Runcorn and Helsby by-election, securing the Greater Lincolnshire mayoralty, and gaining control of several county councils, challenging both Labour and Conservative strongholds.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/593e8e6c-8d08-47a5-8550-9920cc7a211a> - This article covers the fragmentation in UK politics, noting that Reform UK made significant gains in the 2025 local elections, including winning the Greater Lincolnshire mayoralty and potentially taking control of Staffordshire County Council, while the Conservatives faced losses.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/02a06002-d769-478f-8ac9-6c2fb0dd4640> - This podcast transcript discusses the implications of the UK local election results, reflecting a significant erosion of the traditional two-party dominance, with Reform UK making striking gains, including winning its first mayoral seat and controlling two councils.
* <https://www.civilserviceworld.com/professions/article/farage-floats-plans-to-slash-50bn-from-departments-and-cut-taxes> - This article details Nigel Farage's Reform UK manifesto, which includes plans to cut departmental and agency budgets by £50bn a year, as well as proposals to raise the threshold for income tax and reduce the main rate of corporation tax.
* <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-03-20/reform-vote-share-up-9-in-council-by-elections-ahead-of-key-local-polls-in-may> - This report analyzes data from over two hundred council by-elections, showing that Reform UK's vote share increased by more than nine percent, indicating the party's growing momentum in British politics ahead of the May 2025 local elections.
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14674459/Nigel-Farage-Trump-style-cuts-end-Reform-councils.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data