

Hertfordshire Local Government Reorganisation

St Albans District Information Session



Panel:

Cllr Paul de Kort - Leader, St Albans City and District Council

Jo Fisher – Exec Director of Children's Services, Herts County Council



Local Government Reorganisation LGR

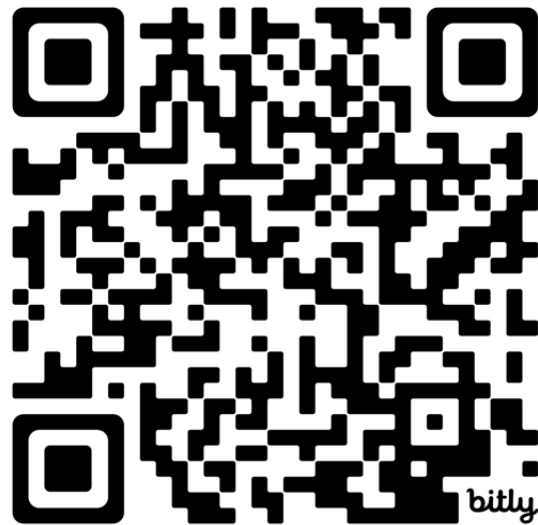
Community Governance Review CGR



Providing Your Feedback

- Hertfordshire's dedicated Local Government Reorganisation website:
www.hertfordshire-lgr.co.uk (has link to the feedback survey)

Website:



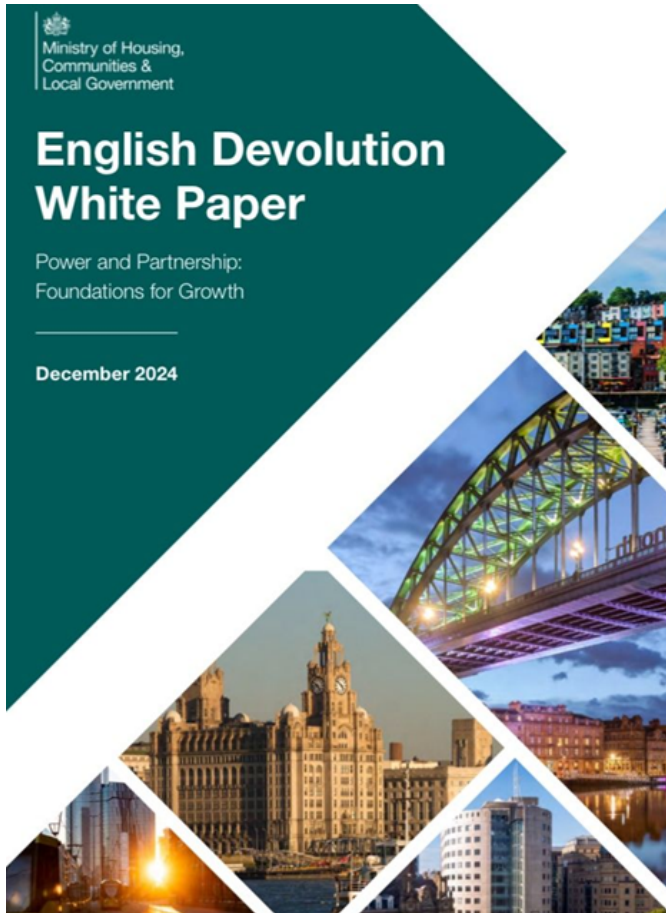
Survey:



- You can also share your views directly at hertfordshirelgr@connectpa.co.uk



What is Local Government Reorganisation?



- In late 2024, the Government set out plans to change how local councils operate. This means areas like Hertfordshire that operate a system with a County Council, and District & Borough Councils are being asked to **reorganise**.
- That's why the 11 council leaders in Hertfordshire are **working together** on a joint plan for how local government could be reshaped to better serve our communities.
- This plan will be sent to the Government in November 2025.



Our Focus

- **People-centred services** designed around residents' lives, not organisational boundaries
- **Integrated and efficient services** which reduce duplication and improve accountability, with services which are digitally enabled, prevention-focused and financially sustainable
- **Place-based growth** unlocking economic potential by leveraging its strategic location and sector strengths e.g. life sciences, creative industries.
- **Community empowerment** will be central, with residents actively shaping services.



How does Local Government work in Hertfordshire currently?

The current local government arrangement in Hertfordshire is referred to as a two-tier system:

Hertfordshire County Council:

- Children's Services – including social care and SEND services
- Adult Care Services – including services for older and disabled people
- Growth and Environment - including highways and waste disposal
- Public Health
- Community Protection – including Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue and Trading Standards
- Libraries
- Registration Services (births, deaths and marriages)

District & Borough Councils

- Council Tax – registering, paying and payment enquiries
- Planning – new houses, extensions and shops
- Housing and homelessness
- Parking fines, permits and car parks
- Bin collections and replacements
- Licensing
- Pest control
- Environmental health
- Leisure services



New arrangements in summary



STRATEGIC AUTHORITY

Sets the strategy for the area e.g., the whole of Hertfordshire or possibly further afield

Led by an elected Mayor



UNITARY AUTHORITY

Delivers local services

Covers a wide range of responsibilities previously held by county and district councils

We do not know yet how many unitary councils Hertfordshire will have



TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Will continue where they currently exist

Other arrangements being considered for areas without Town and Parish councils



What's happened so far?

- Hertfordshire's Interim Plan submitted on 20th March
- Councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner worked together to explore options including:
 - A **single county-wide unitary** authority (we no longer believe this is the right approach to represent residents)
 - A **two-unitary authority model**, aligned with existing economic/health partnerships
 - Potential **three- and four-unitary** models for further analysis

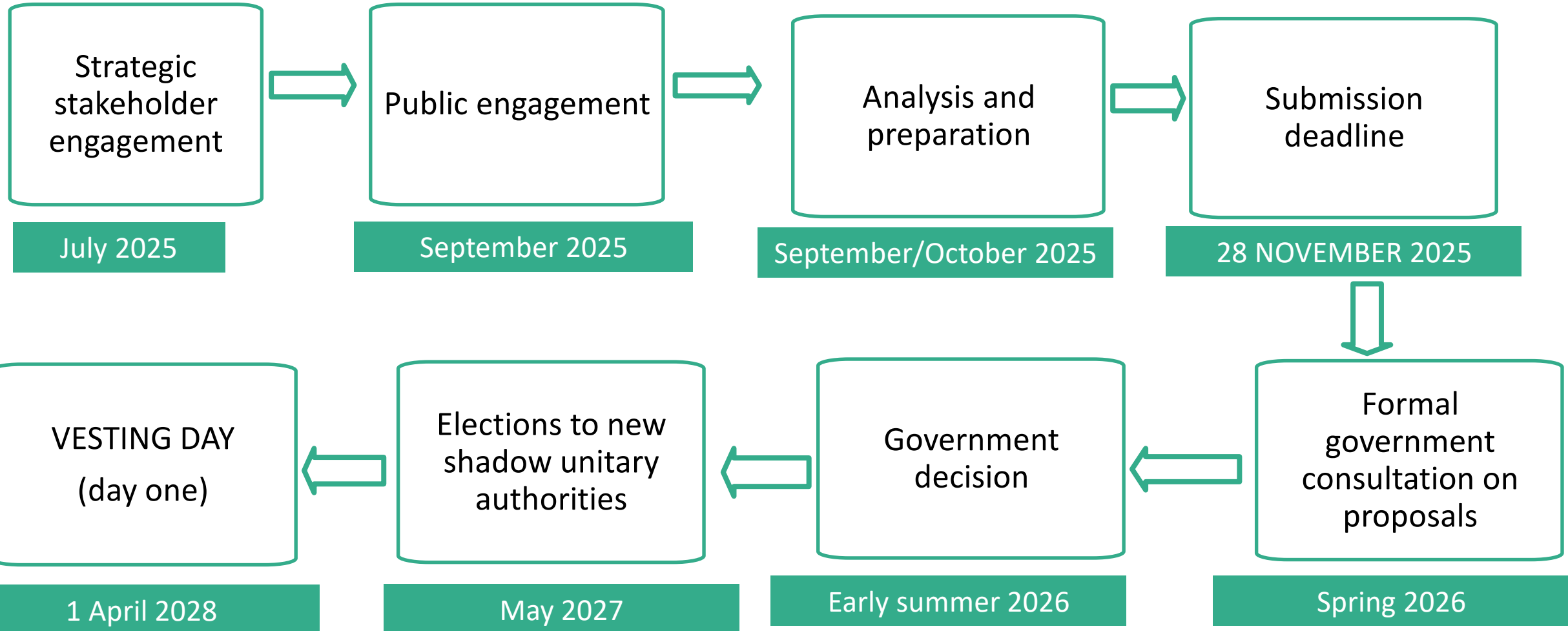


What are the Government's criteria for unitary council proposals?

- a. Seek to establish **a single tier of local government**.
- b. Proposed unitary councils must be the **right size to achieve efficiencies**, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. A population of 500,000 or more provides a guiding principle (rather than a target) and there is flexibility where this figure does not make sense for local areas.
- c. Unitary structures must **prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services** to citizens.
- d. Proposals should **show how councils in the area have sought to work together** in coming to a view and considered issues of local identity and cultural and historic importance.
- e. New unitary structures **should enable stronger community engagement** and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment.



When will LGR happen in Hertfordshire?



What options are being considered?

- When our final proposals are presented to the Government, each of the 11 Councils in Hertfordshire will indicate which of the 3 options they prefer.
- After considering a wide range of options for different numbers of new councils, we have selected three options for further detailed analysis and development, and are seeking the views of residents and stakeholders on these options:
 - **2 unitaries**
 - **3 unitaries**
 - **4 unitaries**



What options are being considered?

Local authority	Population (mid-2024)	Population (2045)
WEST	614,463	722,000
EAST	600,924	758,000

2 unitaries



West

Dacorum, Hertsmere, St Albans, Three Rivers, Watford

East

Broxbourne, East Herts, North Herts, Stevenage, Welwyn Hatfield

What options are being considered?

Local authority	Population (mid-2024)	Population (2045)
WEST	386,013	463,000
CENTRAL	350,199	414,000
EAST	479,175	603,000

West
Dacorum, Three Rivers, Watford PLUS Bushey North & Bushey South County Electoral Divisions
Central
Hertsmere, St Albans, Welwyn Hatfield MINUS Bushey North & Bushey South County Electoral Divisions
East
Broxbourne, East Herts, North Herts, Stevenage

**The striped area on the map shows a potential boundary change between Watford and Hertsmere. We are considering this as part of the LGR process, as it could improve services where the current boundary splits communities.*



What options are being considered?

Local authority	Population (mid-2024)	Population (2045)
WEST	306,582	351,000
SOUTH-WEST	307,881	371,000
CENTRAL	316,013	391,000
EAST	284,893	366,000

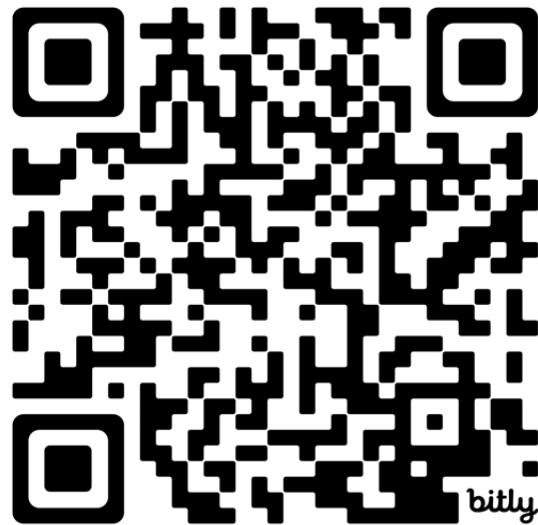
West
Dacorum, St Albans
South West
Hertsmere, Three Rivers, Watford
Central
North Herts, Stevenage, Welwyn Hatfield MINUS Royston Heath, Royston Palace, Royston Meridian, Ermine, Weston & Sandon, Arbury wards from North Herts District Council AND Northaw & Cuffley Ward from Welwyn Hatfield District Council.
East
Broxbourne, East Herts PLUS Royston Heath, Royston Palace, Royston Meridian, Ermine, Weston & Sandon, Arbury wards from North Herts District Council AND Northaw & Cuffley Ward from Welwyn Hatfield District Council.



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Questions for the panel?

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