Devolution Mapping Process (Engagement and activity)

Region	County	Current activity	Proposed activity	CLA objective
South East	**Kent**	While Kent and Medway were not selected as one of the areas to be a part of the government's Devolution Priority Programme, all of the county's council leaders have been asked to work on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This would mean merging the current two-tier councils, including county, district and borough, to make a smaller number of larger single unitary authorities. Interim proposals from KCC, Medway Council and all 12 district and borough councils were submitted in March, with full proposals expected by 28 November. Councils across Kent and Medway will be gathering feedback from the public on LGR to form part of the submission of the business plan in the autumn.		Set out a series of principles to underpin local economic growth Will need a catalogue of different policy statements to assist the regions. These will need to be adjusted (where necessary) to take into account different perspectives/options according to local need. Policy areas are: • Housing • Planning • Economic growth • Infrastructure • Energy • LNRS • Transport • Community right to buy
	Sussex	DPP - Prioritised for devolution – proposing single tier council replacing district & boroughs East & West * Brighton & Hove City are collaborating a single mayoral combined county authority for Sussex and Brighton.		
	Surrey	Reorganising into 2 unitary councils – proposal is for the existing 12 to split into East and West Surrey or 2nd proposal to split into East, North and West – feedback is that East west is proving a more popular option as it splits rates revenue more equitably		

		Elmbridge Borough Council, Mole Valley District Council and Surrey County Council proposed 2 unitary councils: • East Surrey (Elmbridge, Epsom and Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate and Banstead, Tandridge) • West Surrey (Guildford, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Waverley, Woking) **The Borough Councils of Epsom and Ewell, Guildford, Reigate and Banstead, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Waverley and Woking, and Tandridge District Council proposed 3 unitary councils:** • East Surrey (Epsom and Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate and Banstead, and Tandridge) • North Surrey (Elmbridge, Runnymede, and Spelthorne) West Surrey (Guildford, Surrey Heath, Waverley, and Woking)		
	Hampshire	DPP - Prioritised for devolution – establish Mayoral Combined County authority – Hampshire & Solent and 4 unitary authorities Proposing: **North and Mid Hampshire** Incorporating Basingstoke and Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor and Winchester. Population of around 656,000. **South-West** Incorporating Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton, and Test Valley. Population of around 707,000. **South-East** Incorporating Fareham, Gosport, Havant and Portsmouth. Population of around 533,000.		

		Isle of Wight Population of around 141,000.		
	Greater London			
	Berkshire	West Berkshire to take in some of South Oxfordshire, and possibly Swindon(?) but this leaves Reading, Wokingham, Bracknall Forest, Slough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and maidenhead to come to an arrangement for east Berkshire but as of yet this has not happened as far as I can see.		
	Buckinghamshire	On 1 April 2020, the former District Council areas of Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe and Buckinghamshire County Council came together to form a single Unitary Authority, Buckinghamshire Council.		
	Isle of Wight	Devolution plans with Hampshire	Hampshire & IOW to create Mayoral combined Authority IOW propose remaining as a separate unitary authority	
	Oxfordshire	Three high level options are being developed in parallel for unitary local government in Oxfordshire, using common or shared data sources where possible. Each option has been arrived at using the guidance and annex shared with us in the statutory invitation. All Councils across Oxfordshire are at varying stages of detail for their options and the extent of that progress is identified within each option submitted. In summary, the options are for a single council for Oxfordshire (Oxfordshire Council), two councils (Ridgeway Council and Oxford City, West Oxfordshire and Cherwell Council using existing district council boundaries), or three councils (Greater Oxford Council, North Oxfordshire Council and Ridgeway Council) – with the latter two options both involving the inclusion of West Berkshire Council		
Region	**County**	**Current activity**	**Proposed activity**	**CLA objective**
SOUTH WEST	Cornwall	Level 2 devolution deal signed on 28.11.23 for the county. CCC rejected cross-border devolution with Devon (Jan 25), opposed to proposal for South West Strategic Mayoral Authority.	As at 28.10.26 - SFA proposal being prepared for submission to govt.	Monitor

		Update as at 28.10.26 Cornwall Council is exploring designation as a Single Foundation Strategic Authority, which would allow significant powers without forming a combined authority. Following a Cabinet meeting in March 2026 this is now being formed into a full proposal to Govt in early 2027		
SOUTH WEST	Devon	**Update as at 17.07.26** Government have confirmed there will be 4 Unitary Authorities. These new councils will comprise of the current areas of: • Exeter City Council, plus 15 parishes from Teignbridge District Council, 28 parishes from East Devon District Council and 6 parishes from Mid Devon District Council (referred to in the proposal as **'Exeter'**) • Plymouth City Council, plus 13 parishes from South Hams District Council (referred to in the proposal as **'Plymouth'**) • Torbay Council, plus 17 parishes from Teignbridge District Council and 4 from South Hams District Council (referred to in the proposal as **'Torbay')**: • East Devon District Council (minus the 28 parishes in 'Exeter', Mid Devon District Council (minus the 6 parishes in 'Exeter'), North Devon Council, South Hams District Council (minus the 13 parishes in 'Plymouth' and the 4 parishes in 'Torbay', Teignbridge District Council (minus the 15 parishes in 'Exeter' and 17 parishes in 'Torbay'), Torridge District Council and West Devon Borough Council (referred to in the proposal as **'Devon Coast and Countryside Council').** **<u>UPDATE – 11.08.26</u>** It is proposed that alignment of the parish, town, and local authority election will be established from 2027. Districts will be making representation to the government for a five-year term for parish and town councillors in Devon from	Proposal for the creation of a South West Peninsula Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA) - representing 1.2 million residents and an economy worth over £25 billion a year. Supported by the Leaders of Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and the district councils across Devon.	Monitor

		2027, to ensure that all elections remain in alignment thereby saving significant costs. **Update – 07.09.26** As of Monday 7th September, the Government confirmed that Local Government Reorganisation for Devon is being "paused and reviewed".		
	Dorset	See **Wessex**	Exploring partnership option prior to application for potential MCA	Monitor, continue discussions with Nick Ireland, leader of DCC
SOUTH WEST	Gloucestershire	Update as of 16/07/2026 Steve Reed confirmed that government have decided to move forward with the implementation of the one unitary proposal submitted by Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council, and Tewkesbury Borough Council ("the one unitary proposal"). Letter as follows: Gloucestershire DRAFT Gloucestershire will also be creating a single countywide Foundation Strategic Authority (FSA) by May 2027. This will lead the way for membership of WoECA. **UPDATE AS AT 11.08.26** Elections for three councils in Gloucestershire, scheduled to take place in May 2027, have been cancelled ahead of the abolition of the county's seven existing authorities. Planned votes for **Forest of Dean** and **Cotswold District councils**, and **Tewkesbury Borough Council** will not go ahead. Instead, shadow elections for Gloucestershire's new 'super' council will be held. Councillors already sitting on the three authorities will have their terms extended by a year before the bodies are disbanded. **Update as at 07.09.26** As of Monday 7th September, the Government confirmed that Local Government Reorganisation for Gloucestershire is being "paused and reviewed". This includes discussions	**Updated as at 13.04.26** Exploring MCA options: Six of Gloucestershire's seven councils have written jointly to Government, outlining a shared ambition for the county to join the West of England Combined Authority (WoECA) as part of its long-term devolution pathway. Tewkesbury BC are confirming their position following a full cabinet meeting at the end of April 2026.	Monitor

		and plans for a wider Mayoral Strategic Authority option for the county.		
	~~Heart of~~ **Wessex**	Update – 09.09.25 Involving Wiltshire/Dorset/Somerset and BCP. *Wessex Councils (BCP, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire) are clear that we remain open to further discussions with Swindon Borough Council about expanding the partnership should they wish to consider joining Wessex in the future. Both the Wessex Partnership and Swindon BC are clear that these future options should not delay a devolution agreement for Wessex moving forward.* **Update as at 21.10.26** Prime Minister backs Wessex Mayoral Strategic Authority - Dorset Council Name for devolved MCA changed to "Wessex"		
	Somerset	See Wessex	Exploring partnership option prior to application for potential MCA	
	Wiltshire	See Wessex	Exploring partnership option prior to application for potential MCA	
	Swindon	**Update** **As at 19th December 2025:** Councils across the Thames Valley have formally submitted an expression of interest (EOI) to government in forming a mayoral strategy authority to include Swindon. 13 councils have signed up to the proposal which would join Swindon to neighbouring authorities in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. **Update – 01.07.26** The proposed Thames Valley Foundation Strategic Authority (including Swindon) has been dealt a major blow when the Oxfordshire Council refused to agree to the proposal. Other opportunities are being explored.	NYK	
	WoECA	As part of the move towards greater devolution, there has been strong support locally for North Somerset Council to	***UPDATED 17.02.26***	

		join the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and gain access to the additional powers and funding that membership of a Combined Authority brings. This expansion is also supported by national government. Consultation launched throughout CA and North Somerset closing on 10th April 2026. **<u>Update as at 28.10.26</u>** It is expected that the process will be completed towards the end of 2026 or early 2027. North Somerset Council will then become a full member of WECA. Announcement due in late November 2026		
<u>EAST</u> *(updated 17/08/2026)*	**Bedfordshire**	**No agreed devolution deal currently in place.** The proposed South Midlands Mayoral Strategic Authority did not progress because authorities could not agree a common geography. Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes favoured a smaller grouping, while Northamptonshire authorities sought a wider South Midlands arrangement. Central Bedfordshire remained non-committal. Bedfordshire devolution discussions remain effectively stalled, although Government continues to encourage strategic authority arrangements. [bedfordind…dent.co.uk], [southmidlands.org.uk]		
	Cambridgeshire	The **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)** remains an established mayoral authority covering Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Four Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) options were submitted in November 2025. Government consultation closed in March 2026. A final Government decision was expected in summer 2026 but has been delayed until autumn 2026. The current expectation remains implementation of new unitary councils from April 2028, following shadow arrangements from May 2027. [gov.uk], [gov.uk], [cambridge.gov.uk]		
	Essex	The **Greater Essex Mayoral Combined County Authority** (Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock) has passed the Government's statutory tests and devolution is proceeding. However, the inaugural mayoral election originally planned for 2026 was postponed and is now		

		scheduled for **May 2028** to align with Local Government Reorganisation. Work continues on replacing the current 15-council structure with a smaller number of unitary authorities. [gov.uk], [maldon.gov.uk], [eppingfore...dian.co.uk]		
	Hertfordshire	Significant progress since your original note. Three final LGR proposals were submitted in November 2025. Following consultation, Government announced in July 2026 that Hertfordshire will be reorganised into **four new unitary authorities**. Elections to shadow authorities are planned for May 2027, with the new councils becoming operational from April 2028. Hertfordshire County Council continues to pursue a future mayoral strategic authority arrangement but Government has not yet confirmed the devolution geography. [gov.uk], [hertfordsh...-lgr.co.uk], [hertfordshire.gov.uk]		
	Lincolnshire	Devolution is fully implemented through the **Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA)**, covering Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire. The first mayor, **Dame Andrea Jenkyns**, was elected in May 2025 and is now exercising devolved powers relating to growth, skills, transport and investment. The authority is fully operational and delivering its first investment programmes. [greaterlin...cca.gov.uk], [greaterlin...cca.gov.uk]		
	Middlesex	No separate devolution programme exists. The historic county remains divided between Greater London boroughs and neighbouring counties. Any devolution arrangements continue to be delivered through the Greater London Authority, London boroughs, Hertfordshire and Surrey structures as applicable.		
	Norfolk	Norfolk remains part of the proposed **Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Strategic Authority**. The mayoral election has been postponed until **May 2028**. For Local Government Reorganisation, Government decided in March 2026 to implement a **three-unitary model** for Norfolk rather than the county council's preferred single-unitary proposal.		

		Transition work is now under way ahead of implementation in 2028. [gov.uk], [gov.uk], [norfolksuf…cca.gov.uk]		
	Northamptonshire	North and West Northamptonshire remain two unitary authorities. Following failure to secure inclusion within the fast-track South Midlands devolution programme, both councils agreed in March 2026 to pursue a **Northamptonshire Foundation Strategic Authority**. The councils continue to express a preference for a wider South Midlands geography if a future opportunity arises. [northnorth…ngov.co.uk], [northnorth…nts.gov.uk]		
	Nottinghamshire	The **East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA)** remains in place under Mayor Claire Ward. Separately, Local Government Reorganisation has advanced significantly. Government announced in July 2026 that Nottinghamshire and Nottingham will be reorganised into **two unitary councils**, adopting the option submitted by Nottingham City Council. Elections to shadow authorities are expected in May 2027, with implementation from April 2028. [gov.uk], [beta.newar…ddc.gov.uk]		
	Suffolk	Suffolk remains part of the proposed **Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Strategic Authority**, with the mayoral election now planned for **May 2028**. For Local Government Reorganisation, Government announced in March 2026 that Suffolk will move to **three new unitary authorities**, replacing Suffolk County Council and the five district/borough councils. Transition arrangements are under way for implementation in 2028.		
		Current Activity and Context	**Proposed activity**	**CLA objective**
Midlands	Cheshire	Cheshire and Warrington has received government confirmation to progress with a Mayoral Combined Authority and devolution agreement. This involves transferring powers and funding from the government to the region, aiming to boost jobs, improve transport, and encourage smarter investment. The Mayoral elections, originally planned for May 2026, have been deferred to May 2027. The three councils (Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, and Warrington) are expected to make formal decisions in September 2025 regarding the establishment of the Mayoral Combined Authority Context all local authorities in real financial struggles.		

		Candidates : Dan Price (Labour) and Ben Fletcher (Conservatives)		
	Derbyshire	The interim plan, submitted by the eight district and borough councils in Derbyshire (excluding Derby city), proposes the creation of two unitary authorities: one covering all of Derbyshire (excluding Derby) and the other being Derby City Council. To join East Midlands (with East).		
	Herefordshire	Probably the simplest to deal with since: Our preference is devolution at a single county level.		
	Leicestershire	This interim plan focuses on the County Council's preferred option of a single unitary council for Leicestershire based on existing local authority boundaries and excluding Leicester City and Rutland. Likely become North, City and South authorities. https://www.northcitysouth.co.uk/ To have a strategic authority sitting above the authorities.		
	Rutland	Rutland was included in three different interim plans submitted to national government in March 2025: a three-unitary model covering the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland area, which could see us form part of a new council serving North Leicestershire and Rutland one of several options in the Greater Lincolnshire area interim plan, which could see us join with North Kesteven, South Kesteven and South Holland an option being tabled by Leicester City Council, which could expand the city boundaries and include Rutland in a single Leicestershire unitary	Rutland to join North Leicestershire	
	Shropshire	No formal plan proposed. Shropshire is exploring a cross-border partnership with neighbouring counties instead of pursuing a formal English devolution deal. This partnership, called Marches Forward, includes Herefordshire, Powys, and Monmouthshire, and aims for a "growth deal" supported by both the English and Welsh governments.		

		Context Shropshire on edge of bankruptcy and Telford and Wrekin don't want to join. Shropshire looking to devolve services to town and parish councils.		
	Staffordshire	Interim Plan for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent submitted by Cannock Chase District Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire District Council, Stafford Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Tamworth Borough Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council. Interim Plan for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent submitted by Staffordshire County Council. Interim Plan: Supplementary Response by Stoke-on-Trent City Council submitted by Stoke-on-Trent City Council. Local Government Reorganisation in Southern and Mid Staffordshire Interim Plan submitted by Cannock Chase District Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire District Council, Stafford Borough Council, and Tamworth Borough Council. JG met Staffordshire Council late summer 25. Devolution was up in air esp re Stoke.		
	West Midlands	Covers Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton The Mayor Richard Parker is in office until May 2028. https://www.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/trailblazing-devolution-for-the-west-midlands/		
	Warwickshire	Looked at 2 options but decided that a single unitary council covering the whole of Warwickshire most closely met conditions laid down by Government. Desire to join West Midlands. Already a non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined Authority.		
	Worcestershire	Key findings of the Options Appraisal include that there are likely two options for Worcestershire (either a single or two unitary authorities); only the single unitary model meets the criteria set by Government;		

North	Cumbria	Cumbria currently has two unitary authorities: Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council. These replaced the previous six district councils (Allerdale, Barrow-in-Furness, Carlisle, Copeland, Eden, and South Lakeland) and Cumbria County Council, which were abolished on April 1, 2023. Cumbria devolution consultation was launched 17 February and lasted until 13 April 2025. Results on the consultation - On 18 July 2025 Westmorland and Furness and Cumberland Councils welcomed the news Cumbria has passed statutory devolution tests set by the Government and will now be allowed to progress to the next stage of the devolution process. In a written ministerial statement, Local Government Minister Jim McMahon confirmed the Government believed the introduction of a mayoral authority for Cumbria would improve people's economic, social and environmental well-being and reflect the identities and interests of local communities.	Proposal is to introduce a mayoral authority for Cumbria. 2 Councils will need to decide whether they both want to introduce a Mayoral Strategic Authority (to be decided by September). The Government has decided to delay a proposed May 2026 election, which will be held in May 2027 if the Mayoral Strategic Authority does move forward.	
	Lancashire	Lancashire has a two-tier system of local government, with Lancashire County Council as the upper-tier authority and several district councils as lower-tier authorities. There are proposals to change the council structure to a unitary format but this has not happened yet. In March 2025, councils had a deadline to submit initial plans for how they will reorganise themselves into new authorities. In November 2023, the government announced it was willing to enter into a devolution deal with Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council. The devolution arrangements cover the		

		whole of Lancashire. The Combined Authority has now been set up, with representatives from the ten district councils and Lancashire county council.		
	North East	Area is made up of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees. The North East Combined Authority has been set up. The authority was announced on 28 December 2022 in the North East devolution deal. On 6 March 2024, the Government announced the North East deeper devolution deal, which allowed the new authority to absorb multiple previous devolved bodies and gave North East Combined Authority increased devolved powers. The first election for the authority took place on 2 May 2024. The replacement of both the non-mayoral North East Combined Authority and the North of Tyne Combined Authority happened on 7 May 2024. The new combined authority was operational by the end of May 2024.		
	Yorkshire	Yorkshire has been undergoing a process of devolution, with the establishment of combined authorities and directly-elected mayors. This includes the creation of combined authorities in West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire, and more recently, the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.		CLA attends Grow Yorkshire steering group which is a partnership by York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (YNYCA), which recognises food and farming as vital sectors within the region. The partnership operates to inform, support and steer the Combined Authority on their polices for the area.