

Local Government Reorganisation - statutory consultation

You'll already know that last year, Government set out plans to replace Lancashire's existing councils with new unitary councils, each responsible for delivering all local services. To support this, councils across Lancashire were asked to put forward ideas for how reorganisation could work.

In November, five different proposals were submitted:

- One proposal for two unitary councils
- One proposal for three unitary councils
- Two proposals for four unitary councils
- One proposal for five unitary councils

You can view all proposals on the joint Lancashire LGR website: <https://lancashirelgr.co.uk/proposals>

Government is now reviewing these proposals against the criteria it published earlier in 2025.

Statutory consultation

As part of the decision-making process, Government is running a statutory consultation on all five proposals to gather views from residents and stakeholders.

The consultation will open tomorrow, Thursday 5 February and will run for 7 weeks, closing at 11:59pm on Thursday 26 March.

Please take part and share your views.

The consultation will mainly take place online. Once Government activates the consultation link on Thursday, it will be available on the joint Lancashire LGR website: <https://lancashirelgr.co.uk/>

Next steps

After the consultation closes, Government's current timeline is:

- Summer 2026: Decision on the preferred option
- May 2027: Shadow elections for new unitary councils
- April 2028: New unitary councils go live

Following our previous communication regarding the upcoming consultation for local government reorganisation, we can now inform you that the consultation is open.

You can access the survey by following this link <https://lancashirelgr.co.uk/say-1>

If your town and parish would like to provide a response as an organisation then there is opportunity for you to select this option when you fill in the form.

As you might want to prepare your responses in advance, we have provided further information and the questions asked for you below.

You can find more information about the proposals under consultation here <https://lancashirelgr.co.uk/proposals>

As well as filling in your personal details, or organisational details for a collective response, you will be asked the following questions for each of the proposals outlined in the link above.

Item 18

The questions are as follows:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas? (Drop down answers, strongly agree to strongly disagree)

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal? (Drop down answers, strongly agree to strongly disagree)

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks? (Drop down answers, strongly agree to strongly disagree)

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services? (Drop down answers, strongly agree to strongly disagree)

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs? (Drop down answers, strongly agree to strongly disagree)

To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements? (Drop down answers, strongly agree to strongly disagree)

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment? (Drop down answers, strongly agree to strongly disagree)

If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-7 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on the proposal. (Text box to add further comments)

We hope this supports you in making your organisations, and residents voices heard.

Best Wishes

Town and Parish Council Team