

Community Cohesion Action Network
**Local Government
Reorganisation**

25th March 2026

What is Local Government Reorganisation?

What we have now in Lancashire



1 County Council



12 District Councils



2 Unitary Councils



What we have now in Lancashire

County Council (1)	District Councils (12)	Unitary Councils (2)
Adult Social Care	Housing	
Children's Social Care	Licensing	
Highways	Building Control	
Education	Council Tax Collection	
Trading Standards	Business Rates Collection	All Services
Waste Disposal	Waste Collection	
Planning (Strategic)	Planning (Local)	
On Street Parking	Off Street Parking	
Libraries	Leisure Services	
Public Health	Cemeteries/Cremation	

Why is this happening?



Government's Policy Intent:-

- Address regional inequalities by giving places the tools to grow their own economies
- rebalance power away from Government towards local and regional levels, while also strengthening communities so people have more control over decisions that affect their lives and places.
- More devolution to Strategic Authorities, eg Mayoral Combined Authorities
- Strengthening the building blocks for effective Combined Authorities. All 21 two tier areas to develop proposals for reorganisation into single tier Councils
- Save money?

Events to Date

Dec 2024	English Devolution and Community Empowerment White Paper
Feb 2025	Formal invitation from Government to 21 Areas Councils to submit reorganisation proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 6 Areas (Essex, Hampshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, East and West Sussex, Cheshire and Warrington and Cumbria on accelerated timetable (Devolution Priority Programme))- 1 Area (Surrey) also on an accelerated timetable- 14 Areas (including Lancashire) on standard timetable (expected vesting day 1 April 2028)
Mar 2025	Interim Proposals submitted
Nov 2025	Final Bid Submitted
Feb 2026	Government undertaking Statutory Consultation

What are the proposals?

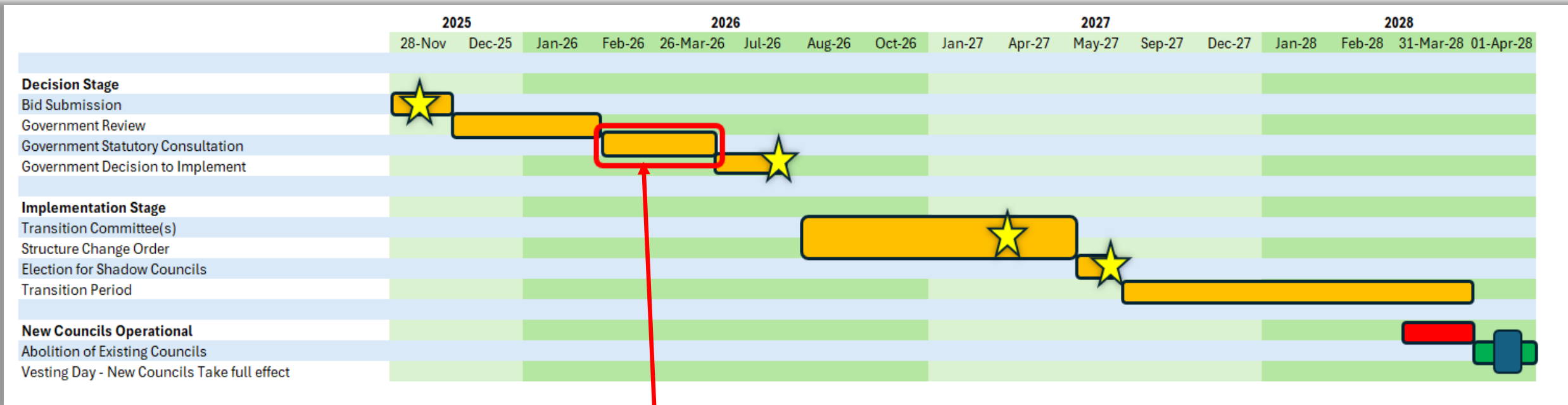
Two	Three	Four	Five	Alternative Four
				
	    	    	 	

Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire – Lancashire Local
Government Reorganisation

Examples of what the proposals say

- Recognition of the **importance of voluntary, community and faith organisations** in local places.
- Feedback showed: residents and partners want **community voices at the heart** of new structures.
- Calls for **continuity of support** for community services during and after transition.
- **Stakeholder engagement**, including VCFS, highlighted as essential.
- Emphasis on **local influence and partnership working** in future governance.
- Proposals stress **community involvement in shaping neighbourhood governance**.

Outline Timetable - Lancashire



We are here

★ Key Decision Points

■ New Councils start

The Government's Stakeholder Consultation

The Government's Stakeholder Consultation

- 108 Named Consultees - National, Regional and Local Bodies
- Councils - Principal Councils, Neighbouring Councils
- Strategic Authorities – Mayoral CAs, CAs, LCCA
- Health Bodies – ICB, Trusts, Ambulance Services
- Police Bodies – OPCC, Lancashire Constabulary
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Education Bodies – FE, HE, AMRC
- Other Public Sector – AONB, TfN, Northern Rail etc
- Business Bodies – CBI, Chambers of Commerce, FSB
- National Bodies – EA, LGA, Unions, National Highways

The Government's Stakeholder Consultation

But....Residents, Businesses, Town and Parish Councils etc. can all respond

Deadline for responses is 26th March 2026


[Home](#) > [Regional and local government](#) > [Devolution](#)

Open consultation

Local government reorganisation in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool

From: [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government](#)

Published 5 February 2026

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Applies to England

Summary

This consultation seeks views on the local government reorganisation proposals we have received from councils in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool.

This consultation closes at
11:59pm on 26 March 2026

Related content

Collection

[Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool: Local government reorganisation](#)

The Government's Stakeholder Consultation

- [Local government reorganisation in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool - GOV.UK](#)

What could it mean for the Voluntary and Community Sector?

Risks

- Short term instability
- Uncertainty about funding decisions
- Upheaval at Councils leading to turnover in key staff
- Larger procurement or commissioning frameworks
- Focus on 'safe and legal'

Opportunities

- Simpler Governance could improve Partnerships
- Larger Unitary Councils will need a local 'community' presence
- Place-based working and service delivery will still be required
- Potential chance for Voluntary/Community Sector to shape the system
- Stronger strategic partnerships

What you can do?

- Map current funding sources
- Nurture and Build relationships beyond Pendle
- Strengthen consortium working (cross-sector forums)
- Be clear about your impact (and make it evidence based, case studies etc)
- Advocate collectively (have 'one voice')

Questions?