

# **Local Government Reorganisation - RVS AGM**

**Executive Director Karen Edwards**

29 April 2026



# Agenda

## Item

**Government Decision & Timeline**

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**Transition Periods & Implementation Bodies**

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**Electoral Arrangements**

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**Working with Our Community Partners Through Transition**

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**Rushmoor Community Partners Workshop Oct'25**

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**Q&A**

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# Government Decision

**Overview:** The Government confirmed LGR will proceed across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, replacing the current two-tier system with a new structure of five unitary councils across the region from 1 April 2028.

**What will the new structure look like:** Under the approved model (Option 1A), Hampshire will shift to five unitary authorities covering:

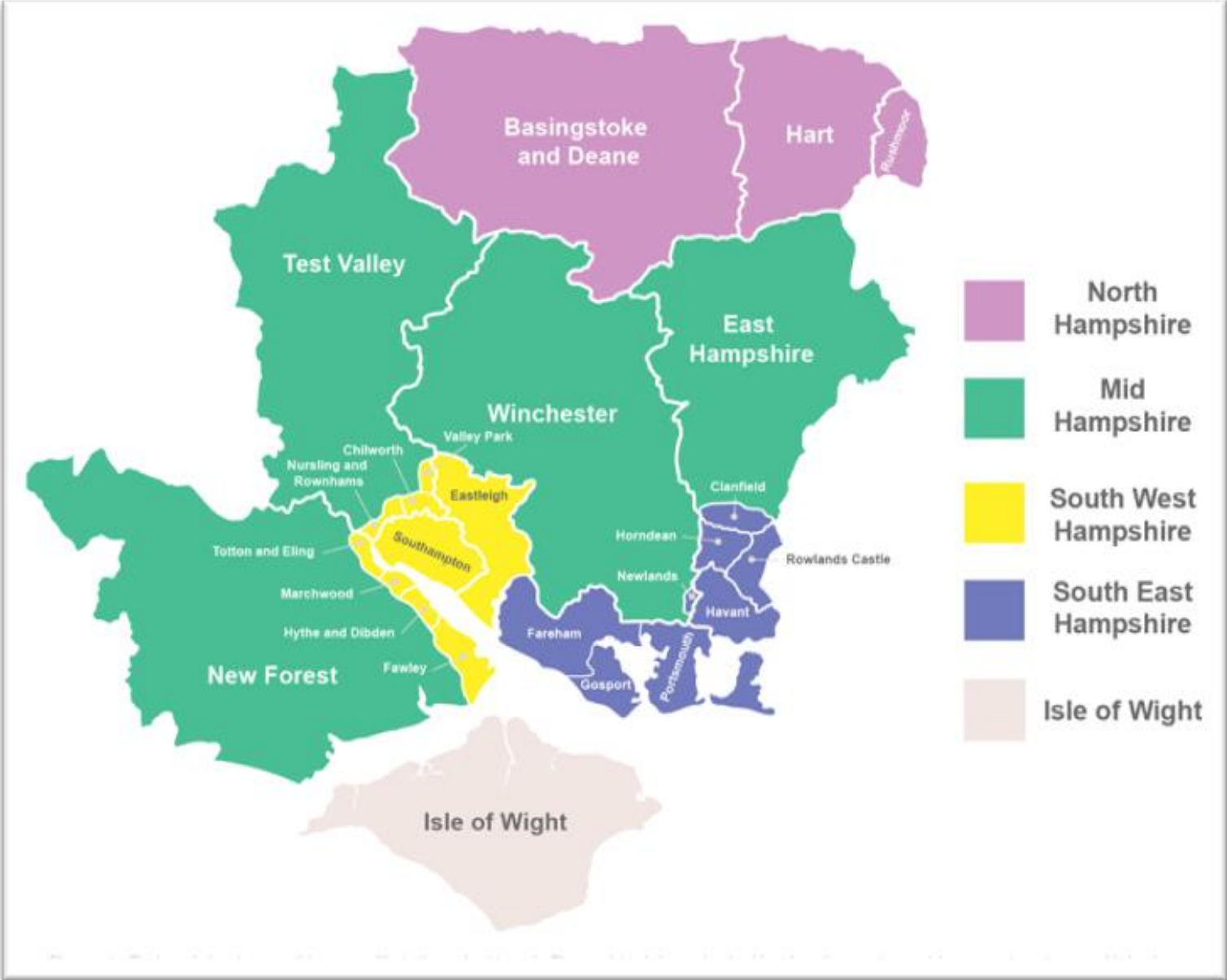
- North Hampshire (Basingstoke, Hart, Rushmoor)
- Mid Hampshire (New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester, East Hampshire)
- South West Hampshire (Eastleigh, Southampton, Waterside areas of New Forest, lower Test Valley)
- South East Hampshire (Portsmouth, Havant, Gosport, Fareham)
- Isle of Wight (retains its current unitary status)

*These structural details reflect the Government's aim to streamline services and improve long-term financial sustainability.*

**Boundary Changes:** Several parish boundary adjustments are included.

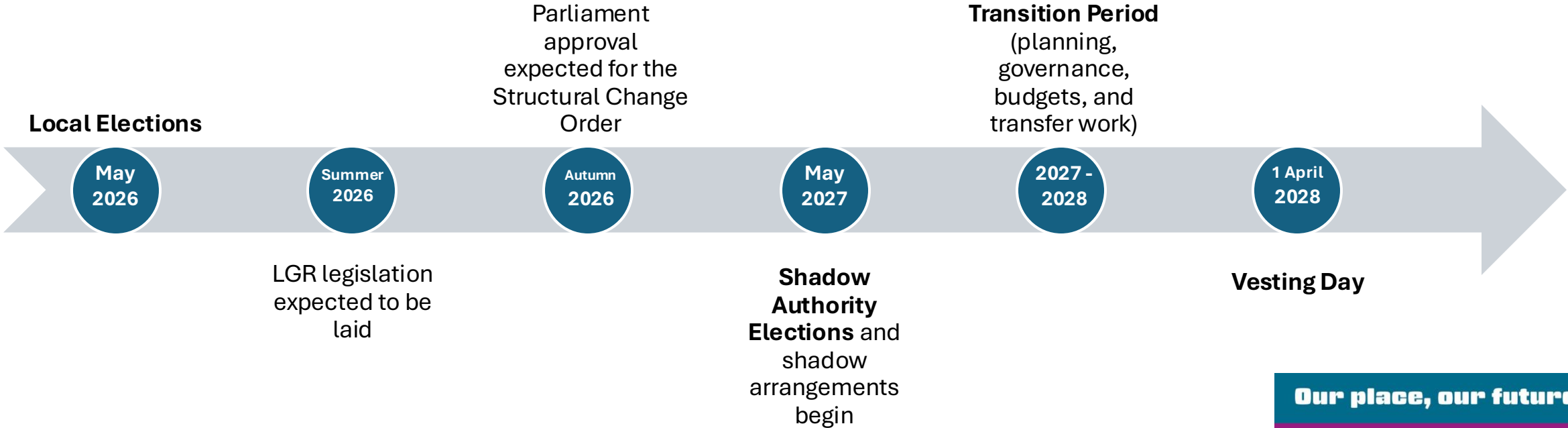
**What it means for Rushmoor:** A new North Hampshire council will provide all services to residents in Aldershot and Farnborough, Hart and Basingstoke and Deane, including those currently run by Hampshire County Council. In total, this will serve around 400,000 residents.

# North Hampshire Unitary



# Timeline

Some dates are still subject to Government confirmation, but the expected timeline is:



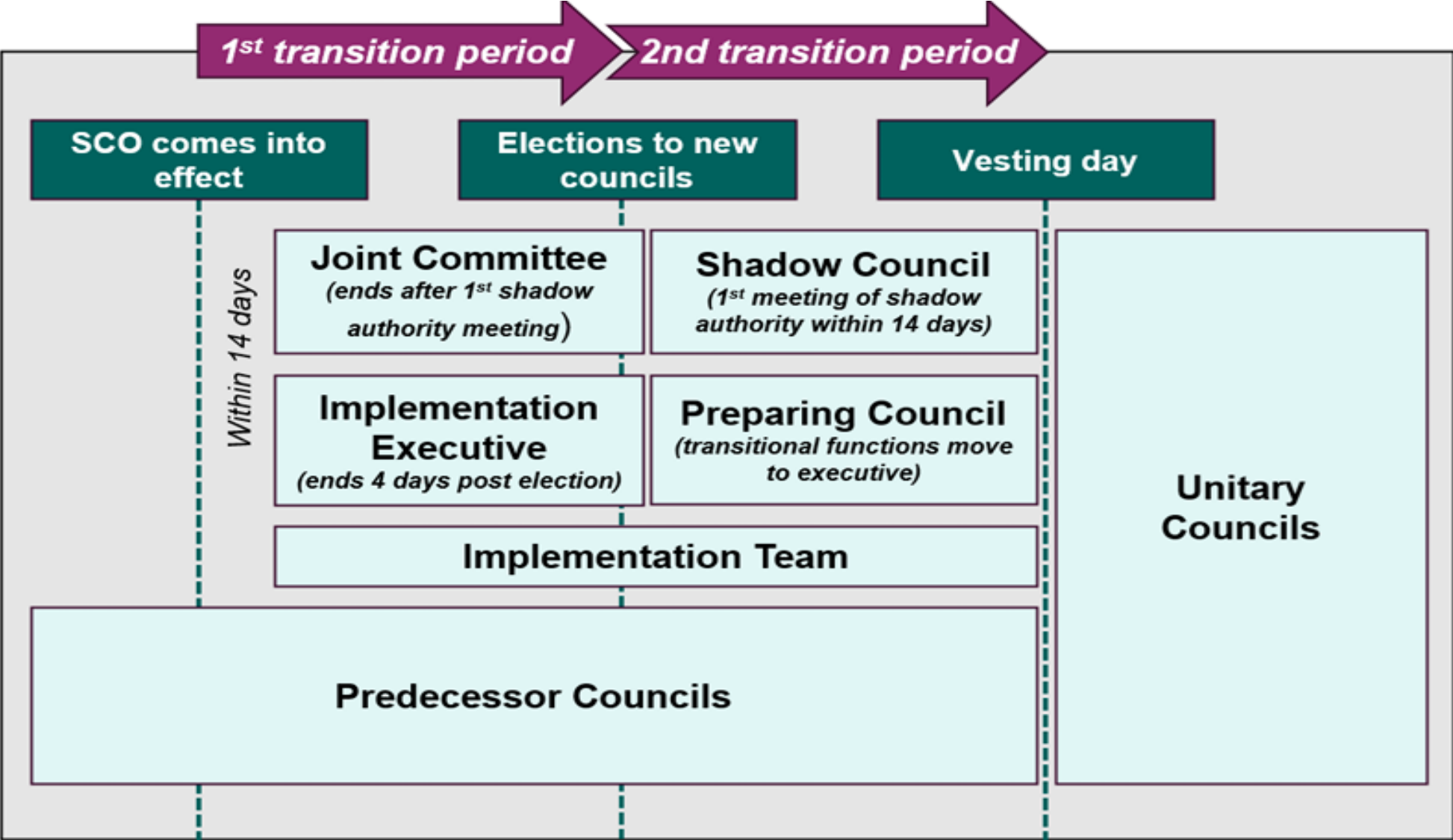
**Our place, our future**

**Your NEW council**

**RUSHMOOR**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

The graphic features three images: a statue of a man on a horse, a scenic view of a lake and trees, and an aerial view of a modern city with green spaces.

# Transition Periods & Implementation Bodies



# Electoral Arrangements

- Local and County Council elections taking place as planned on 7 May 2026.
- The Structural Changes Order (SCO) will replace any scheduled local elections in May 2027 with all out elections to the new councils.
- Councillors will be elected for a first term of five years with the subsequent election in 2032, after which the standard four-year term will apply. This is in line with recent reorganisations and brings benefits of stability, with new councillors serving most of their first year on the ‘shadow’ council.

# Rushmoor Community Partners Workshop Oct'25

## Implications for the Voluntary & Community Sector

### Opportunities for the VCS

- Potential access to larger, pooled funding pots
- Less duplication in funding bids and commissioning
- Stronger collaboration, shared learning and peer support across a wider area
- Greater strategic influence through a single authority
- More joined-up services and clearer signposting for residents

### Key Risks & Concerns for the VCS

- Uncertainty over future grants, rate reliefs and local funding streams
- Increased competition – risk to small, hyper-local organisations
- Loss of local relationships, knowledge and place-based working
- Increased demand on charities alongside reduced funding
- Transitional disruption to services, assets and contracts

## What LGR Means for the Voluntary & Community Sector & What We Need

### What This Means for VCS Organisations

- Need to adapt to new funding, governance and commissioning arrangements
- Risk of financial instability during transition
- Additional pressure as demand rises with fewer council resources
- Time and capacity required to build new relationships and navigate change
- Potential loss of venues, assets or informal local support

### What the VCS Forum Is Asking For

- Early and transparent communication on funding, grants and contracts
- Protection for small, specialist and hyper-local charities
- Locality-based engagement to retain local knowledge and trust
- Clear VCS representation within the new authority
- Transitional support to avoid service loss to communities

# Working with our Community Partners through transition

- Approach will evolve over time.
- Lots of uncertainty in relation to who will be doing what and how it will be done, from an implementation programme perspective.

## What can we commit to now

- Very willing to come to any forum you have to provide updates;
- Get together in the Autumn to start work on how VCS can best influence and set out their 'asks' of the new council in time for consideration by the shadow council;
- Start to capture the key questions e.g.
  - Uncertainty over future grants, rate reliefs and local funding streams;
  - Information about venues, assets or informal local support.
- When the time is right, we will facilitate joint sessions across the new council area.

## As far as the council is concerned

- Business as usual as far as our services are concerned;
- Key contacts remain the same;
- Continue to communicate key updates as we get them.



# Any questions?

- Ask via Donna and her team;
- Or directly via [devolutionlgr@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:devolutionlgr@rushmoor.gov.uk);
- Check for updates on the [Rushmoor LGR website](#).

