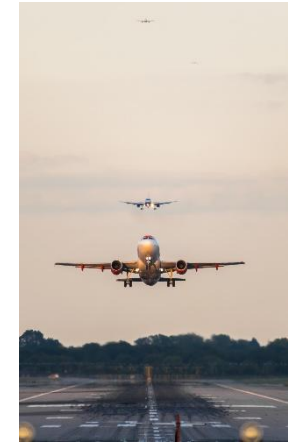


Shaping West Sussex

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Update Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Presentation April 2026



Agenda

Recap

Latest Government Announcement

What Next

What Now

The LGR Programme

Questions

Questions

Recap

- Three business cases were submitted to Government proposing four options for LGR in Sussex.
- The West Sussex business case for LGR supported two viable options:
 - Option A – a single unitary based on the West Sussex current boundary
 - Option B – a two unitary proposal:
 - Unitary 1 – Arun, Adur, Worthing and Chichester
 - Unitary 2 – Horsham, Crawley and Mid-Sussex
- Brighton and Hove submitted a business case based on a 5 unitary model for the whole of Sussex proposing that Chichester should form a unitary with Horsham and Crawley.
- East Sussex submitted a business case based on a single unitary for East Sussex
- The Government recently consulted on all the options in the East and West Sussex business cases

Latest Government Announcement

Meeting with Local Government
Minister 25 March

The Secretary of State has
postponed the decision in Sussex,
citing concerns over rural and
coastal representation balance and
the need for B&H to grow

The B&H 5 unitary model has been
disregarded, and the Government
will be consulting on the following
modifications:

East Sussex and B&H proposal -
expanding the boundaries of B&H to
take in some wards in Lewis, and
leaving the rest of East Sussex as a
single unitary

West Sussex – SoS has concerns
about diluting the rural and coastal
offer and wants to consult on
moving Chichester to Horsham,
Mid-Sussex and Crawley. Leaving a
coastal authority which would
include, Arun, Adur and Worthing.

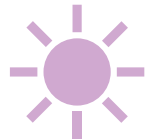
What Next



Government intends to consult on the modifications after the local election.



It will be a short technical consultation concluding mid-June.



SoS decision before summer recess.



The laying of the Statutory Change Ordered will now be later.



Shadow elections May 2027.



Vesting day 1 April 2028.

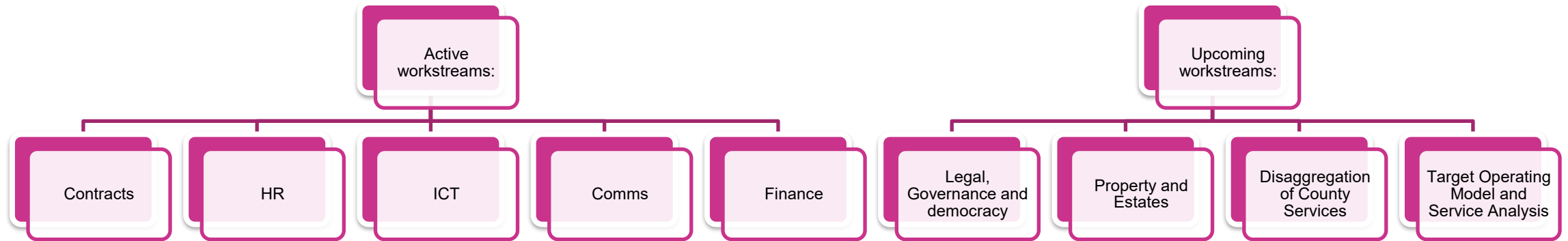
What now?

We will carry on with the LGR programme.

We are asking Government for some clarification on the process.

We will respond to the consultation based on our business case and any new information

The LGR Programme



The Programme - Governance

Programme Board – Single implementation Board, led by Chief Executives – in place now

Structural Change Order (SCO) - statutory instrument to legally create the new unitary(ies) – now expected to be in place before March 2028

Joint Committee(s) - Members from each of the Councils oversee the implementation – informally following the elections, formally following the SCO until elections to the new unitary(ies)

Shadow Authority(ies) - Formed following Elections to the new unitary(ies) - prepares the councils for Vesting Day 1 April 2028 when the new unitary(ies) take effect

Programme Resources

- Small LGR team already in place
- We have recently undertaken a recruitment process to expand the capacity in the programme team (primarily specialist programme managers, project managers and analysts)

Programme Deliverables



Safe and legal Operations on Day 1



Service Continuity



Digital and Data Readiness



Governance and Political Structures



Longer Term Deliver (Post Vesting Day)

Any Questions?