

Decision Day – Key messages general

- Local Government in England is changing, the biggest in over 50 years.
- Today, we've been informed of the government's preferred option for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Lancashire.
- Subject to Parliamentary approval, four new unitary councils will be created, to replace the current 15 councils.
- They will be
 - **North** - Lancaster, Preston, Ribble Valley
 - **West** - Fylde, Wyre, Blackpool
 - **East** - Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Rossendale, Pendle, Burnley
 - **South** - Chorley, South Ribble, West Lancashire
- There are differing views on LGR in Lancashire and change of this scale can bring challenges, however we are well prepared for what lies ahead to deliver a smooth and co-ordinated transition.
- There is strong collaboration already in place. By working together, we have a real opportunity to create something positive for our residents, communities and workforce.
- All of the current 15 councils have been working collectively to do the necessary preliminary work to prepare and there is a team ready to implement changes ready for the new unitary councils going live on 1 April 2028. This timeline allows time for a planned and considered approach.
- For now, it is very much business as usual, and we will continue to provide high-quality services to residents and communities.
- Our priority is to keep services running smoothly and reliably, with the vital work we deliver for residents remaining at the heart of everything we do.
- We understand that change of this scale can make people feel uncertain, and it is completely natural for there to be questions as plans develop.
- Councillors continue in their roles, representing and supporting their communities, with their leadership and local insight remaining essential throughout this transition.
- We are committed to being open, honest and transparent, providing regular updates and opportunities to ask questions.
- Staff will be supported throughout the change so that they can continue to deliver high quality services.

Agreed statement

A spokesperson for Lancashire's LGR Board of Chief Executives, said:

“Today’s announcement marks an important milestone for Lancashire.

"While there will understandably be a great deal of interest in what this means for our residents, businesses and communities, it is important to stress that for now, it is very much business as usual.

“No matter how we are reshaped, our priority remains unchanged – to continue delivering high-quality services while we work together across Lancashire to plan the next steps.

“There is strong collaboration already in place. By working together, we have a real opportunity to create something positive for our residents, communities and workforce. This is a long-term change, and there is time to ensure the transition is carefully managed.

“We recognise that change of this scale can bring uncertainty. We are committed to being open and transparent throughout the process, keeping residents, staff and partners informed as more details become available."