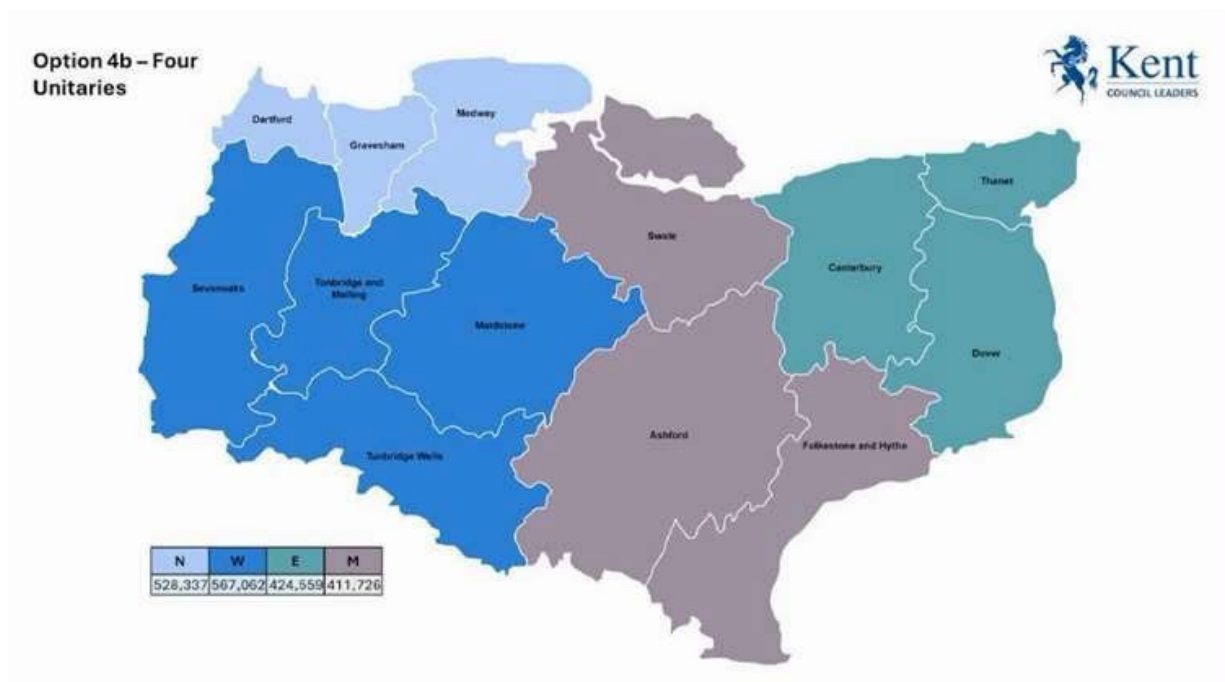


Kent and Medway to Move to Four Unitary Authorities by 2028



Definition of LGR Terms Used

Please find below some of the more common terms that will be used throughout the LGR process.

- **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR):** is the process by which the structure and responsibilities of local authorities are reconfigured. Including the process of combining data, resources, services or functions from multiple councils into a new authority.
- **Devolution:** The transfer of powers and funding from national to local government. It is separate to LGR, although they are both included in the English Devolution White Paper.
- **Disaggregation:** The process of separating and redistributing services, functions and resources from one larger council into multiple smaller authorities.
- **English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill:** A piece of legislation designed to transfer powers from central government to local leaders. The bill aims to drive regional growth and empower local communities by: establishing a standardised statutory devolution framework creating new Strategic Authorities introducing local powers, including a community right to buy.
- **English Devolution White Paper:** The government's statement of their plans to reform local government. This includes proposals on devolution, wider plans for LGR and changes to local audit.
- **Implementation Plan:** A document required by legislation. It must contain detailed plans and timetables showing how the new unitary authorities will be delivered effectively.
- **Joint Committee:** A formal governing body established to manage the LGR transition in advance of shadow authorities being elected. Detail of the Joint Committees will be outlined in the Structural Changes Order.
- **Lead authority model:** This is where one authority provides a lead role in hosting a shared service on behalf of other authorities in the system.
- **Minded To Decision:** The government's decision on its preferred model of LGR. This includes the geography and number of unitary councils.
- **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG):** The government department responsible for LGR and devolution.

Definition of LGR Terms Used continued...

- **Section 24 Direction:** This refers to Section 24 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. It allows the Secretary of State to restrict the financial and contractual activities of councils that are to be dissolved. This is to ensure that they do not make significant commitments that could affect the future authorities' ability to manage their resources effectively.
- **Shadow Authority:** Responsible for carrying out the functions of a new council during the transition period. The transition period ends when the new council formally comes into effect. This is commonly called vesting day. They make sure that the new council is ready to take over all functions and responsibilities from the current councils. This includes setting up governance structures and appointing key officers.
- **Single-tier system:** Where a single local authority is responsible for all local government services within its area.
- **Statutory Instrument (SI):** A form of secondary legislation that allows the government to make changes to the law without passing a completely new Act of Parliament.
- **Structural Changes Order (SCO):** The Structural Changes Order (SCO) is the legal instrument that creates the shadow authorities. It also puts in place the process by which those authorities will assume responsibility for the delivery of services in the following years.
- **Two-tier system:** Where local government services in one area are split between a county council and district councils. The county council usually provides services such as social care and highways. The district councils usually provide services such as housing, elections and waste collection.
- **Unitarisation:** The process of replacing county and district councils with one new unitary council. The new unitary is then responsible for all local government services.
- **Vesting Day:** The day that new a new unitary council formally takes over all legal powers, duties and assets from the councils it replaces.
- **Upper Tier Local Authority:** A council that provides upper tier local government services, such as social care and highways. This includes county councils and unitary councils.