

Area	Surrey - shadow council/joint committees (entirely new councils)	
LGR Model	2+ Unitary Model	
SCO link	The Surrey (Structural Changes) Order 2026	
New Authority names and former councils	East Surrey (Part of Surrey County Council (SCC), Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge; and West Surrey Council)	West Surrey (Part of Surrey County Council, Guildford, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Waverley and Woking)
Joint committee(s)	<u>Joint Committee</u> 12 persons: 6 from SCC, 6 from District/Borough Councils (1 from each)	<u>Joint Committee</u> 10 persons: 5 from SCC, 5 from District/Borough Councils (1 from each)
Voting arrangements	• Majority voting of those present • Each member (including the Chairman of the committee) has one vote. • the person presiding at the meeting has a casting vote, in addition to any other vote the person may have.	
Chair	Not specified	
Political Balance	Not specified	
Timing of Joint Committee	- Not later than 14 days of the Order coming into force - Dissolved on the day following each shadow authority holds its first meeting.	
Implementation Team		
Timing	- Not later than 21 days after the coming into force of this Order	
Implementation team members	• One Team comprising officers from the County Council, East Surrey Councils and West Surrey Councils each of the district councils • The leader of the implementation team must be the Chief Executive of the county council - The deputy leaders of the Implementation Team are to be an officer of one of the East Surrey councils and an officer of one of the West Surrey councils	

Implementation model precedent – preparing council/implementation executive			
Area	Somerset	North Yorkshire	Wiltshire
LGR Model	Continuing authority model		
SCO link	The Somerset (Structural Changes) Order 2022	The North Yorkshire (Structural Changes) Order 2022	The Wiltshire (Structural Change) Order 2008
New Authority names and former councils	Somerset Council (Somerset County Council (SCC) and Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton, and South Somerset)	North Yorkshire (North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby)	Wiltshire Council (Wiltshire County Council (WCC), Kennet, North Wiltshire, Salisbury, and West Wiltshire).
Implementation executive	9 persons: 5 from SCC 4 from District Councils (1 from each)	17 persons: 10 from NYCC 7 from District Councils (1 from each)	17 persons: 9 from WCC 8 from District Councils (2 from each)
Voting arrangements	- Majority voting of those present - Each member (including the leader of the executive) has one vote. - the person presiding at the meeting has a casting vote, in addition to any other vote the person may have.		
Leader of the Implementation executive	Leader of the Somerset Council’s executive	Leader of the North Yorkshire Council’s executive	Leader of the Wiltshire Council’s executive
Political Balance	Not specified	Not specified	Yes - At least one member from each party on the Executive.
Timing of Implementation Executive	- On the coming into force of this Order - Dissolved the fourth day after the election day		
Implementation Team			
Timing	Not later than 21 days after the coming into force of the Order to assist the Joint Committee in the discharge of their functions, and after its dissolution to assist the relevant shadow authority(s) if so required		

Points to consider

- Intention for this round of local government reorganisation is that there will be elections for new councillors in May 2027 during the transition year – and as such **two implementation periods**. The first period will be overseen by a joint committee or implementation executive and the second by the new councillors to the new council. Further information on the respective roles of implementation bodies can be found here: [Local government reorganisation - implementation guidance](#).
- The joint committees/implementation executive will be in place for a **short period**, before being effectively replaced with the new shadow authority/preparing authority and their executive following elections. Representations on membership, size and voting arrangements of the joint committee/implementation executive may want to reflect that model of decision making. Consideration may also be given to other factors including local political balance, continuity of leadership and local circumstances, including devolution arrangements/ambition, financial circumstances, service delivery concerns and which councils developed and put forward the proposal being implemented.
- Joint committees should be **8-16 members** to provide sufficient capacity and representation. Decisions should be by a simple majority, with a casting vote for the chair where needed. **All councils should be appropriately represented**, including taking account of unitary expertise, which councils developed the proposal, and where the complexity of service aggregation and disaggregation lines.
- A **single implementation team of officers** allows information flow and engagement between joint committees, councils, teams and the government on progress, particularly for services being disaggregated, and should strengthen engagement and communication throughout. It will be important for strong alignment and data sharing between the new councils as they work through preparation for shadow elections, and then subsequently vesting day, and the twin challenges of aggregation and disaggregation.
- Membership of the implementation team(s) is for each of the councils to determine beyond any limits/requirements set in the structural changes order. Precedent is that the leader and the deputy leader(s) may be specified in the SCO.
- Each shadow authority, at its first meeting, will be required to designate key interim officers before appointing, by the date specified in the SCO, a monitoring officer, finance officer and head of paid service for the shadow authority. The implementation team is formed during the first transition period and remains in place for the second transition period. Designated officers for the shadow authorities are not intended to replace the implementation team but are expected to work closely with them and undertake implementation activities.
- Parish elections are not automatically affected. However, provision can be made to align parish elections to the new unitary elections where this is desired locally, in order to minimise the costs of these elections being held separately. If this is agreed, final information on aligning elections would be required by 17 August.