



Local government reorganisation and devolution

Find out more information about the government plans and ambitions for local authorities. Go to <https://bit.ly/4hnXCzM> Worcestershire County Council

On 7 September 2026, the government announced plans to pause the local Government Reorganisation Programme.

Following this announcement, we are seeking urgent clarification on what this means for Worcestershire, the timetable we have been working towards, and the significant amount of work already underway.

Until we receive that clarity, our priority remains delivering services for residents, businesses and communities across Worcestershire. There is no immediate change to the services people receive, and residents should continue to contact their existing council in the usual way.

On Thursday 16 July 2026, the Government announced that Worcestershire's seven existing county, city, district and borough councils will be replaced by two new unitary councils from 1 April 2028, North Worcestershire Council and South Worcestershire Council.

These two unitary councils will deliver all local government services bringing together responsibilities that are currently delivered by seven councils across the county.

For residents, the most important thing to know is that there will be no immediate changes to the services you receive. Your council services will continue to operate as normal while arrangements are made for the new councils to take over in April 2028.

What happens next?

The Government will introduce the legislation needed to create the two new councils, subject to Parliamentary approval. Detailed work will then take place to establish the new councils. This will include bringing together services, staff, systems, buildings, finances and democratic arrangements.

This is the current timetable:

- **2026 to 2027** – councils work together to design and prepare the new councils
- **May 2027** – elections are expected to take place for councillors who will initially serve on the new shadow councils
- **2027 to 2028** – the shadow councils oversee preparations and agree key arrangements for the new councils
- **1 April 2028** – the new North Worcestershire Council and South Worcestershire Council are expected to take responsibility for local government services