



HOUSE OF COMMONS
London SW1A 0AA

Alison McGovern MP
Minister for Local Government and Homelessness
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

09/01/2026

Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire

Dear Minister,

We note that you have launched a consultation on proposals for local government reorganisation in Hampshire and the Solent. This is a collective response from the majority of Members of Parliament in the area.

We welcome the fact that local people will be able to have their say on the full range of options. It is the largest and most complex reorganisation ever undertaken and we believe a solution tailored to local requirements, rather than a template based on previous LGRs, will be essential.

As local MPs who are closely connected to our communities, we feel very strongly that the case for five unitaries in Hampshire and the Solent is overwhelming. It is no surprise to us that this case is supported by the vast majority of councils in the area, including existing unitary councils who with all their experience believe it is the best way forward.

The case is simple. It is a fact of life that there are natural sub-county economies in North Hampshire, Mid-Hampshire and South Hampshire – which has two main centres – and the Isle of Wight, making five in all. In our view it is essential that Government takes this once-in-a-generation opportunity to design local government accordingly.

The proposal for five unitaries supports your ambitions to deliver economic growth, public service improvements and support for mayoral devolution by building new councils in Hampshire around the economic and public service hubs of Southampton, Portsmouth, Winchester and Basingstoke. Fewer and larger unitaries, as envisaged by the alternative proposal from Hampshire County Council (HCC) and East Hampshire District Council (EHDC), will break up these natural economies, for example by separating Test Valley from Winchester.

The alternative four-unitary proposal would create councils that are more distant from local people, with huge (700,000+) populations and unworkably large geographical areas covering hundreds of parishes. Councils on this scale will be so cumbersome and overcentralised that they will be impossible to run efficiently. This is borne out by the savings projected by HCC and EHDC for the four-unitary model, which are lower than the minimum £64m projected by the councils supporting five unitaries. This reinforces the efficiency of true localism.



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We urge you to support the case for five unitaries as set out by the 11 councils at LGR | [Stay Informed & Get Involved.](#)

Yours sincerely,

Alex Baker MP
Member of Parliament for Aldershot

Suella Braverman MP
Member of Parliament for Fareham and Waterlooville

Alex Brewer MP
Member of Parliament for North East Hampshire

Danny Chambers MP
Member of Parliament for Winchester

Paul Holmes MP
Member of Parliament for Hamble Valley

Liz Jarvis MP
Member of Parliament for Eastleigh

Satvir Kaur MP
Member of Parliament for Southampton Test

Kit Malthouse MP
Member of Parliament for North West Hampshire

Amanda Martin MP
Member of Parliament for Portsmouth North

Luke Murphy MP
Member of Parliament for Basingstoke

Darren Paffey MP
Member of Parliament for Southampton Itchen

Richard Quigley MP
Member of Parliament for Isle of Wight West

Sir Desmond Swayne MP
Member of Parliament for New Forest West