

Joint statement by Worcestershire's leaders on the Government's LGR decision

The Government has today confirmed plans for the future of local councils in Worcestershire.

From 1 April 2028, the county's current seven borough, city, district and county councils will be replaced with two unitary councils: one covering North Worcestershire and one covering South Worcestershire.

The decision follows Government consultation and consideration of the two proposals submitted for reorganisation in Worcestershire.

In a joint statement, the seven leaders of Worcestershire's councils said: "The debate is now over and we have a clear direction from the Government. Today, we come together to express our commitment to work collectively to make these new arrangements a success for residents, businesses and communities across the county.

"The decision also provides important clarity for staff across our councils, allowing us to fully focus on planning and delivering an effective transition without any negative impact on the services residents currently receive.

"Throughout this process, there have been strongly held and sincerely expressed views about the future structure of local government in Worcestershire. We recognise councils and residents have approached this debate from different perspectives.

"Now, moving forward, our shared priority will be ensuring every part of Worcestershire is properly represented and local voices continue to shape the decisions which must be made by April 2028.

"Above all, we are united in our determination to deliver high-quality, financially sustainable, transformed services that meet the needs of our communities both now and in the future.

"This is a moment of enormous change that will create exciting new opportunities but also great challenge. We will seize these with renewed purpose as we work together to build a strong and sustainable future for the people of Worcestershire."

Cllr Karen May, Leader of Bromsgrove District Council

Cllr John Gallagher, Leader of Malvern Hills District Council

Cllr Matt Dormer, Leader of Redditch Borough Council

Cllr Lynn Denham, Leader of Worcester City Council

Cllr Matt Jenkins, Leader of Worcestershire County Council

Cllr Richard Morris, Leader of Wychavon District Council

Cllr Marcus Hart, Leader of Wyre Forest District Council