Local Government Reorganisation

Richard Winch (Cllr) <Richard.Winch@midsuffolk.gov.uk> 30 October 2026 at 20:33

Hi,

As outlined un my report, the original decision to create three new unitary councils in Suffolk was unexpectedly withdrawn by Government last month.

This means local elections in May 2027 will go ahead on existing council boundaries.

Following on from the budget, the Minister Jim McMahon, made a statement to the House of Commons confirming that the Government has completed the first phase of their review. They have satisfied themselves that the criteria and process for LGR are robust and aligned to the new Government's priorities.

They are therefore now putting in place arrangements to make a fresh decision in relation to Suffolk.

The new decision will be based upon the proposals that were previously submitted in September 2025 and we do not believe there will be any further public consultation.

We do not yet know exactly when the final decision will be made but Government's intention is that it will be within the next four months at the latest.

Once that decision has been made then shadow elections for the new unitary councils in all areas will take place in May 2028, ahead of those councils going live on 1 April 2029.

So it looks like the reorganisation of local government is back on the table.

Regards

Richard

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