

Appendix 1:

Options appraisal

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Mobilisation and stakeholder engagement (February 2025)

- Rapidly formed a collaborative way of working with all 15 councils across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to establish a baseline position around possible viable options around the place, prior to any analysis being undertaken. This included 22 core stakeholder meetings with Chief Executives, Leaders, S151 officers. Council Chief Executives and Leaders shared their initial views, requirements and key challenges relating to LGR.
- Held an initial session with our key partners, including representatives from Police, Fire, Health and National Parks, to understand their views on potential opportunities and challenges through LGR.

Development of the public databook (February 2025)

- Across each council area, the latest available data was gathered from public data sources to enable detailed analysis for shortlisting activity. The data was captured to align with government evaluation criteria:
 - Governance and efficiency: Population size, geographic area, council tax band D rates
 - Financial sustainability: non-earmarked reserves, Gross Value Added, homelessness rates and rough sleeper counts
 - Service delivery and outcomes: Life expectancy, Indices of multiple deprivation, unemployment rates
 - Economic and social impact: GVA per capita, crime rates
 - Geographic and demographic: Population by age group, population density
 - Strategic alignment: IMD and housing delivery data
 - Debt sustainability: Financing costs, gross external debt and capital financing requirement
 - Council tax equalisation: Council tax base and additional incomes, adjusted debt metrics and retained business rates
- Where relevant in analysis of unitaries, data was adjusted to account for Hampshire County Council allocation
- The data collected for this analysis is listed below.

Total population 2023

Council	Total population
Basingstoke and Deane	190,198
Rushmoor	102,908
Hart	101,542
Winchester	132,440
East Hampshire	128,440
Test Valley	134,461
New Forest	175,398
Southampton	256,110
Eastleigh	140,950
Fareham	114,155
Portsmouth	210,297
Havant	125,682
Gosport	82,385
Isle of Wight	140,906
Total	2,035,872

Council	Total population 0-19
Basingstoke and Deane	43,753
Rushmoor	23,631
Hart	23,593
Winchester	31,074
East Hampshire	27,911
Test Valley	29,920
New Forest	33,163
Southampton	59,627

Eastleigh	32,765
Fareham	23,071
Portsmouth	48,981
Havant	26,882
Gosport	18,170
Isle of Wight	25,838
Total	448,384

Council	Total population 20-64
Basingstoke and Deane	112,743
Rushmoor	63,587
Hart	57,155
Winchester	73,407
East Hampshire	69,519
Test Valley	75,346
New Forest	89,093
Southampton	161,407
Eastleigh	80,126
Fareham	61,903
Portsmouth	129,761
Havant	67,556
Gosport	45,873
Isle of Wight	73,021
Total	1,160,497

Council	Total population 65 and over
Basingstoke and Deane	33,702
Rushmoor	15,690
Hart	20,794
Winchester	27,959
East Hampshire	31,010
Test Valley	29,190
New Forest	53,142
Southampton	35,076
Eastleigh	28,059
Fareham	29,181
Portsmouth	31,555
Havant	31,244
Gosport	18,342
Isle of Wight	42,047
Total	426,991

Total population 2028

Council	Total population
Basingstoke and Deane	194,247
Rushmoor	106,754
Hart	106,464
Winchester	142,328
East Hampshire	134,583
Test Valley	140,248
New Forest	181,664
Southampton	274,539

Eastleigh	148,682
Fareham	122,677
Portsmouth	217,852
Havant	129,654
Gosport	84,558
Isle of Wight	146,351
Total	2,130,601

Geographical area

Council	Area (Square km)
Basingstoke and Deane	633.81
Rushmoor	39.05
Hart	215.25
Winchester	661.06
East Hampshire	514.41
Test Valley	627.68
New Forest	775.53
Southampton	56.39
Eastleigh	85.30
Fareham	77.85
Portsmouth	60.15
Havant	78.96
Gosport	27.61
Isle of Wight	392.83
Total	4,245.88

Population density

Council	Population density (per sq km)
Basingstoke and Deane	300.09
Rushmoor	2,635.33
Hart	471.73
Winchester	200.34
East Hampshire	249.68
Test Valley	214.22
New Forest	226.17
Southampton	4,542.13
Eastleigh	1,652.45
Fareham	1,466.25
Portsmouth	3,496.22
Havant	1,591.80
Gosport	2,984.21
Isle of Wight	358.70
Average	1,456.38

Council Tax Band D

Council	Band D rate (excluding parish)
Basingstoke and Deane	£2,119.55
Rushmoor	£2,212.83
Hart	£2,177.23
Winchester	£2,250.35
East Hampshire	£2,231.64

Test Valley	£2,142.04
New Forest	£2,178.90
Southampton	£2,159.99
Eastleigh	£2,235.17
Fareham	£2,164.55
Portsmouth	£2,180.92
Havant	£2,212.89
Gosport	£2,236.14
Isle of Wight	£2,367.00
Average	£2,197.76

Council tax base

Council	Council tax base
Basingstoke and Deane	70,025.30
Rushmoor	33,410.57
Hart	43,072.16
Winchester	54,886.50
East Hampshire	52,823.33
Test Valley	52,407.00
New Forest	73,355.00
Southampton	67,345.00
Eastleigh	49,576.31
Fareham	44,596.40
Portsmouth	59,340.00
Havant	43,147.40
Gosport	27,086.50
Isle of Wight	
Average	671,071.47

Non-earmarked reserves

Council	Non-earmarked reserves
Basingstoke and Deane	£85.2
Rushmoor	£30.2
Hart	£51.6
Winchester	£100.3
East Hampshire	£40.4
Test Valley	£70.7
New Forest	£52.0
Southampton	£127.5
Eastleigh	£50.2
Fareham	£46.4
Portsmouth	£337.4
Havant	£40.3
Gosport	£23.1
Isle of Wight	£133.9
Total	£1,189.20

Gross Value Added (GVA)

Council	GVA (£ million) 2022
Basingstoke and Deane	8,033.00
Rushmoor	6,667.00
Hart	3,437.00
Winchester	6,036.00
East Hampshire	2,994.00
Test Valley	4,013.00

New Forest	5,618.00
Southampton	10,023.00
Eastleigh	4,742.00
Fareham	3,530.00
Portsmouth	7,509.00
Havant	2,652.00
Gosport	1,222.00
Isle of Wight	3,067.00
Total	69,543.00

Rough sleeper count

Council	Rough sleeper count (Autumn 2023)
Basingstoke and Deane	4.00
Rushmoor	-
Hart	4.00
Winchester	5.00
East Hampshire	2.00
Test Valley	4.00
New Forest	2.00
Southampton	24.00
Eastleigh	2.00
Fareham	4.00
Portsmouth	11.00
Havant	2.00
Gosport	1.00
Isle of Wight	3.00
Total	68.00

Homelessness rate

Council	Homelessness rate (per 1,000 households) Apr-Jun 2024
Basingstoke and Deane	0.45
Rushmoor	1.41
Hart	0.71
Winchester	0.56
East Hampshire	0.46
Test Valley	0.85
New Forest	0.74
Southampton	1.17
Eastleigh	0.39
Fareham	1.02
Portsmouth	4.76
Havant	0.84
Gosport	0.87
Isle of Wight	1.13
Average	1.10

Life expectancy

Council	Male life expectancy
Basingstoke and Deane	81.45
Rushmoor	79.42
Hart	83.44
Winchester	82.00

East Hampshire	82.10
Test Valley	81.33
New Forest	81.62
Southampton	77.86
Eastleigh	81.39
Fareham	81.47
Portsmouth	77.54
Havant	79.88
Gosport	79.20
Isle of Wight	79.17
Average	80.56

Council	Female life expectancy
Basingstoke and Deane	83.97
Rushmoor	83.13
Hart	85.89
Winchester	86.11
East Hampshire	85.48
Test Valley	84.34
New Forest	85.38
Southampton	82.25
Eastleigh	84.80
Fareham	84.76
Portsmouth	82.19
Havant	83.29
Gosport	82.45
Isle of Wight	83.33
Average	84.10

Income deprivation

Council	Income deprivation average score
Basingstoke and Deane	0.07
Rushmoor	0.10
Hart	0.04
Winchester	0.06
East Hampshire	0.06
Test Valley	0.07
New Forest	0.08
Southampton	0.14
Eastleigh	0.07
Fareham	0.06
Portsmouth	0.13
Havant	0.13
Gosport	0.11
Isle of Wight	0.14
Average	0.09

Unemployment rates

Council	Unemployment rates (%)
Basingstoke and Deane	3.71
Rushmoor	3.13
Hart	2.65
Winchester	2.63
East Hampshire	3.14

Test Valley	2.48
New Forest	3.29
Southampton	5.40
Eastleigh	3.21
Fareham	2.88
Portsmouth	4.65
Havant	4.84
Gosport	3.38
Isle of Wight	4.46
Average	3.56

Crime rates

Council	Total crime rate per 1,000 population
Basingstoke and Deane	48.3
Rushmoor	93.3
Hart	49.5
Winchester	57.02
East Hampshire	48.34
Test Valley	56.68
New Forest	59.59
Southampton	126.16
Eastleigh	58.67
Fareham	50.67
Portsmouth	117.59
Havant	80.05
Gosport	80.73

Isle of Wight	76.67
Average	71.66

Housing delivery

Council	Housing delivery test - 2023 measurement
Basingstoke and Deane	131%
Rushmoor	147%
Hart	197%
Winchester	171%
East Hampshire	88%
Test Valley	144%
New Forest	75%
Southampton	50%
Eastleigh	122%
Fareham	55%
Portsmouth	26%
Havant	74%
Gosport	31%
Isle of Wight	76%
Average	99%

Net revenue expenditure (NRE)

Council	Net revenue (£k)
Basingstoke and Deane	19,071
Rushmoor	10,599

Hart	9,604
Winchester	15,499
East Hampshire	23,800
Test Valley	14,706
New Forest	26,245
Southampton	209,664
Eastleigh	15,558
Fareham	13,883
Portsmouth	145,536
Havant	14,133
Gosport	11,386
Isle of Wight	151,876
Total	681,560

Financing costs

Council	Financing costs as % of NRE
Basingstoke and Deane	0%
Rushmoor	65%
Hart	4%
Winchester	0%
East Hampshire	12%
Test Valley	1%
New Forest	15%
Southampton	2%
Eastleigh	81%
Fareham	19%
Portsmouth	15%

Havant	1%
Gosport	16%
Isle of Wight	11%
Average	17%

Gross external debt

Council	Gross external debt (31 March 2024) £k
Basingstoke and Deane	-
Rushmoor	142,500
Hart	14,170
Winchester	159,607
East Hampshire	117,421
Test Valley	6,173
New Forest	124,004
Southampton	316,297
Eastleigh	565,812
Fareham	59,589
Portsmouth	698,836
Havant	2,886
Gosport	52,350
Isle of Wight	170,733
Total	2,430,378

Capital financing requirement (CFR)

Council	CFR (1 st April 2024) £k
Basingstoke and Deane	-
Rushmoor	154,628
Hart	40,665
Winchester	282,706
East Hampshire	156,541
Test Valley	5,585
New Forest	164,087
Southampton	527,410
Eastleigh	602,403
Fareham	123,386
Portsmouth	968,962
Havant	13,427
Gosport	81,155
Isle of Wight	385,814
Total	3,506,769

Retained business rates

Council	Retained business rates (£)
Basingstoke and Deane	32,002,930
Rushmoor	24,107,777
Hart	13,684,249
Winchester	26,565,683
East Hampshire	13,597,984
Test Valley	28,784,641

New Forest	30,902,242
Southampton	51,208,447
Eastleigh	26,157,401
Fareham	17,974,990
Portsmouth	42,006,006
Havant	14,203,359
Gosport	7,431,529
Total	328,627,238

Gross business rates

Council	Gross business rates (£)
Basingstoke and Deane	79,269,303
Rushmoor	57,634,430
Hart	33,559,217
Winchester	65,268,023
East Hampshire	32,401,279
Test Valley	70,924,178
New Forest	75,720,145
Southampton	102,829,879
Eastleigh	64,355,293
Fareham	44,740,386
Portsmouth	84,750,401
Havant	35,122,059
Gosport	18,713,451
Total	765,288,044

Gross council tax income

Council	Gross council tax income (£)
Basingstoke and Deane	141,378,279.69
Rushmoor	73,931,911.61
Hart	93,777,998.92
Winchester	123,513,835.28
East Hampshire	117,882,656.16
Test Valley	112,257,890.28
New Forest	159,833,209.50
Southampton	145,464,526.55
Eastleigh	110,811,480.82
Fareham	96,531,137.62
Portsmouth	129,415,792.80
Havant	95,480,449.99
Gosport	60,569,206.11
Total	1,460,848,375.32

Gross council tax and business rates income

Council	Gross council tax and business rates income (£)
Basingstoke and Deane	220,647,582.69
Rushmoor	131,566,341.61
Hart	127,337,215.92
Winchester	188,781,858.28
East Hampshire	150,283,935.16

Test Valley	183,182,068.28
New Forest	235,553,354.50
Southampton	248,294,405.55
Eastleigh	175,166,773.82
Fareham	141,271,523.62
Portsmouth	214,166,193.80
Havant	130,602,508.99
Gosport	79,282,657.11
Total	2,226,136,419.32

Total rateable value

Council	Total rateable value
Basingstoke and Deane	198,802,125
Rushmoor	144,177,237
Hart	78,772,540
Winchester	169,620,278
East Hampshire	98,329,591
Test Valley	168,162,703
New Forest	196,158,475
Southampton	270,163,577
Eastleigh	147,128,033
Fareham	114,072,431
Portsmouth	232,262,183
Havant	89,586,535
Gosport	49,695,122
Isle of Wight	117,281,206
Total	2,074,212,036

Gross disposable housing income

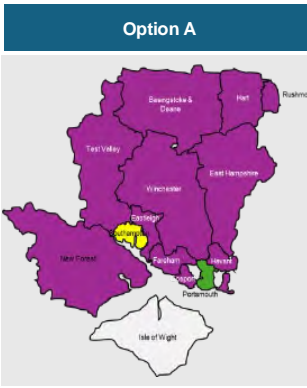
Council	GDHI per head of population (£)
Basingstoke and Deane	25,531
Rushmoor	20,955
Hart	30,226
Winchester	29,584
East Hampshire	28,944
Test Valley	26,074
New Forest	26,570
Southampton	18,758
Eastleigh	22,117
Fareham	24,075
Portsmouth	19,388
Havant	22,106
Gosport	20,007
Isle of Wight	20,749
Total	335,084

Initial longlist of potential options for LGR (February 2025):

- A longlist of potential options was consolidated from around the 15 councils, ranging two new mainland to four new mainland configurations. There was a unanimous agreement that the Isle of Wight should remain an existing unitary early on in the process due to their unique island complexities. This meant a total of 12 options (A-L) were initially considered.
- To assess the 12 options, information from the databook was consolidated at a unitary level to be used as an evidence-base for decision-making on initial refinement, aligning to government criteria 1-3 where initial quantitative analysis was most applicable. The aim of analysis was to demonstrate balance or imbalance across the unitary configurations. Each of the options, with initial data against government criteria 1-3, can be found below.

- This then informed a Leaders' session where we were able to determine which options councils wished to continue refining, informed by this initial analysis. This reduced a long list of 12 options down to seven for further detailed analysis. The approach to do this was agreed with all Leaders and Chief Executives. Six options (A, B, C, D, F, G) were removed due to significant imbalances across unitaries after majority agreement.

The maps and tables below show the initial longlist of options outlining unitary datapoints for metrics agreed against government criteria 1 to 3.

Option A	Government criteria	Unitary Option	Av	U1	U2	U3
	Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	60.15	56.39	3,736.51
		Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,180.92	2,159.99	2,187.34
		GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	35,706.64	39,135.53	34,261.10
		Housing Delivery (%)	101%	26%	50%	118%
		Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	337.40	127.50	590.40
		Population density	1,540.82	3,496.22	4,542.13	382.32
	Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	217,852	274,539	1,491,859
		Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	403.00	401.51	404.40
		Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	615.40	567.98	833.54
		Financing Costs as % NRE (Including County allocations)	5%	15%	2%	5%
	High quality and sustainable services	Deprivation score	0.08	0.13	0.14	0.08
		Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	4.76	1.17	0.72
		Female life expectancy	84.16	82.19	82.25	84.51
		Unemployment rates	3.49	4.65	5.40	3.21
		Crime rates	71.3	117.59	126.16	43.82



Government criteria	Unitary Option	AV	U1	U2	U3
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	244.57	141.68	3,468.80
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,198.63	2,197.58	2,173.14
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	28,004.63	37,185.82	38,117.36
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	44%	76%	135%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	447.20	177.70	430.40
	Population density	1,540.82	2,177.39	2,802.46	278.47
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	554,741	423,221	1,006,288
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	344.26	421.06	429.65
	Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	719.10	847.12	855.35
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	8%	8%	4%
	Deprivation score	0.08	0.11	0.10	0.07
High quality and sustainable services	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	2.43	0.89	0.70
	Female life expectancy	84.16	83.17	83.53	84.90
	Unemployment rates	3.49	3.93	4.31	3.00
	Crime rates	71.3	88.68	102.20	32.98



Government criteria	Unitary Option	AV	U1	U2	U3
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	758.98	917.21	2,178.86
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,205.23	2,191.35	2,160.28
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	27,092.45	35,806.11	42,808.07
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	55%	76%	154%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	487.60	229.70	338.00
	Population density	1,540.82	870.85	624.13	303.90
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	689,324	604,885	690,041
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	326.39	424.32	463.54
	Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	757.34	728.37	826.78
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	7%	8%	3%
	Deprivation score	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.07
High quality and sustainable services	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	2.05	0.84	0.74
	Female life expectancy	84.16	83.63	84.14	84.68
	Unemployment rates	3.49	3.77	3.97	2.92
	Crime rates	71.3	80.84	89.15	22.94



Government criteria	Unitary Option	Av	U1	U2
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	386.25	3,466.80
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,198.28	2,173.14
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	31,926.28	38,117.36
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	60%	135%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	624.90	430.40
	Population density	1,540.82	2,406.68	278.47
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	977,962	1,006,288
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	377.08	429.65
	Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	688.38	855.35
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	7%	4%
High quality and sustainable services	Deprivation score	0.08	0.10	0.07
	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	1.77	0.70
	Female life expectancy	84.16	83.29	84.90
	Unemployment rates	3.49	4.06	3.00
	Crime rates	71.3	94.46	32.98



Government criteria	Unitary Option	Av	U1	U2	U3	U4
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	244.57	141.68	2,064.27	1,402.53
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,198.63	2,197.58	2,190.43	2,160.17
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	28,004.63	37,165.82	35,421.74	40,396.64
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	44%	76%	140%	131%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	447.20	177.70	223.00	207.40
	Population density	1,540.82	2,177.39	2,802.46	214.26	372.96
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	554,741	423,221	464,240	542,048
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	344.26	421.06	479.12	387.82
	Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	719.10	847.12	894.64	823.17
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	8%	6%	3%	4%
High quality and sustainable services	Deprivation score	0.08	0.11	0.10	0.07	0.07
	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	2.43	0.89	0.72	0.69
	Female life expectancy	84.16	83.17	83.53	85.28	84.62
	Unemployment rates	3.49	3.93	4.31	2.80	3.16
	Crime rates	71.3	88.68	102.20	57.94	11.87



Government criteria	Unitary Option	U1	U2	U3	U4	
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	244.57	141.88	1,403.21	2,063.59
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,198.63	2,197.58	2,160.47	2,178.20
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	28,004.63	37,185.82	31,081.88	41,442.93
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	44%	76%	118%	141%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	447.20	177.70	122.70	307.70
	Population density	1,540.82	2,177.39	2,802.46	220.82	317.66
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	554,741	423,221	321,912	684,376
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	344.26	421.06	473.26	409.03
	Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	719.10	647.12	876.87	844.72
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	8%	6%	3%	4%
	High quality and sustainable services	Deprivation score	0.08	0.11	0.10	0.07
Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024		1.09	2.43	0.89	0.78	0.66
Female life expectancy		84.16	83.17	83.53	84.86	84.92
Unemployment rates		3.49	3.93	4.31	2.89	3.05
Crime rates		71.3	88.68	102.20	58.33	20.99



Government criteria	Unitary Option	U1	U2	U3	U4	
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	87.76	1,481.48	219.54	2,064.27
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,208.53	2,170.71	2,186.57	2,190.43
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	29,831.01	36,658.60	35,787.29	35,421.74
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	27%	120%	73%	140%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	380.50	247.70	224.10	223.00
	Population density	1,540.82	3,335.15	437.92	2,328.60	214.26
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	302,410	671,702	545,898	464,240
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	353.50	386.83	414.65	479.12
	Council tax Income (£) per unit population	791.68	652.16	811.31	690.84	894.64
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	11%	4%	6%	3%
High quality and sustainable services	Deprivation score	0.08	0.12	0.08	0.09	0.07
	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	3.66	0.72	0.92	0.72
	Female life expectancy	84.16	82.32	84.35	83.94	85.28
	Unemployment rates	3.49	4.01	3.49	3.83	2.80
	Crime rates	71.3	107.22	25.08	90.69	57.94



Government criteria	Unitary Option	AV	U1	U2	U3	U4
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	2,578.69	888.11	141.68	244.57
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,200.73	2,136.34	2,197.58	2,198.63
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	32,696.21	45,957.41	37,185.82	28,004.63
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	128%	148%	76%	44%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	263.40	167.00	177.70	447.20
	Population density	1,540.82	221.33	444.37	2,802.46	2,177.39
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	598,823	407,465	423,221	554,741
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	428.07	431.94	421.06	344.26
	Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	900.25	793.09	647.12	719.10
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	3%	4%	6%	8%
	Deprivation score	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.10	0.11
High quality and sustainable services	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	0.66	0.77	0.89	2.43
	Female life expectancy	84.16	85.33	84.33	83.53	83.17
	Unemployment rates	3.49	2.88	3.16	4.31	3.93
	Crime rates	71.3	55.78	-	102.20	88.68



Government criteria	Unitary Option	AV	U1	U2	U3	U4
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	917.21	1,803.15	888.11	244.57
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,191.35	2,208.01	2,136.34	2,198.63
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	35,606.11	32,991.77	45,957.41	28,004.63
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	76%	136%	148%	44%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	229.70	211.40	167.00	447.20
	Population density	1,540.82	624.13	218.25	444.37	2,177.39
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	604,885	417,159	407,465	554,741
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	424.32	426.45	431.94	344.26
	Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	728.37	894.26	793.09	719.10
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	6%	3%	4%	8%
	Deprivation score	0.08	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.11
High quality and sustainable services	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	0.84	0.62	0.77	2.43
	Female life expectancy	84.16	84.14	85.31	84.33	83.17
	Unemployment rates	3.49	3.97	2.75	3.16	3.93
	Crime rates	71.3	89.15	54.09	-	88.68



Government criteria	Unitary Option	Av	U1	U2	U3	U4
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	758.98	2,064.27	141.68	888.11
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,205.23	2,190.43	2,197.58	2,136.34
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	27,092.45	35,421.74	37,185.82	45,857.41
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	55%	140%	76%	148%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	487.60	223.00	177.70	167.00
	Population density	1,540.82	870.85	214.26	2,802.46	444.37
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	689,324	464,240	423,221	407,485
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	326.39	479.12	421.06	431.94
	Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	757.34	894.64	647.12	793.09
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	7%	3%	6%	4%
High quality and sustainable services	Deprivation score	0.08	0.10	0.07	0.10	0.07
	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	2.05	0.72	0.89	0.77
	Female life expectancy	84.16	83.63	85.28	83.53	84.33
	Unemployment rates	3.49	3.77	2.80	4.31	3.16
	Crime rates	71.3	80.84	57.94	102.20	-



Government criteria	Unitary Option	Av	U1	U2	U3
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	1,544.89	244.57	2,063.59
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,179.03	2,198.63	2,178.20
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	34,510.32	28,004.63	41,442.93
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	89%	44%	141%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	300.40	447.20	307.70
	Population density	1,540.82	457.58	2177.39	317.66
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	745,133	554,741	684,376
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	443.94	344.26	409.03
	Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	748.05	719.10	844.72
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	5%	8%	4%
High quality and sustainable services	Deprivation score	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.07
	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	0.84	2.43	0.66
	Female life expectancy	84.16	84.19	83.17	84.92
	Unemployment rates	3.49	3.60	3.93	3.05
	Crime rates	71.3	82.97	88.68	20.99



Government criteria	Unitary Option	A.V	U1	U2	U3
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	244.57	917.21	2,691.27
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,198.63	2,191.35	2,172.18
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	28,004.63	35,606.11	39,468.90
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	44%	76%	141%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	447.20	229.70	378.40
	Population density	1,540.82	2,177.39	624.13	293.54
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	554,741	604,885	824,624
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	344.26	424.32	429.19
	Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	719.10	728.37	843.10
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	8%	6%	3%
High quality and sustainable services	Deprivation score	0.08	0.11	0.09	0.07
	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	2.43	0.84	0.70
	Female life expectancy	84.16	83.17	84.14	84.82
	Unemployment rates	3.49	3.93	3.97	2.96
	Crime rates	71.3	88.68	89.15	27.07



Government criteria	Unitary Option	A.V	U1	U2	U3	U4	U5
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	Geographic area (sq km)	-	244.57	141.68	1,403.21	888.11	1,175.47
	Council Tax band D	2,184.74	2,198.63	2,197.58	2,160.47	2,136.34	2,241.00
	GVA per capita (£)	34,382.45	28,004.63	37,185.82	31,081.88	45,957.41	34,613.62
	Housing Delivery (%)	101%	44%	76%	116%	148%	132%
	Non-Earmarked Reserves	81.2	447.20	177.70	122.70	167.00	140.70
	Population density	1,540.82	2,177.39	2,802.46	220.82	444.37	221.94
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	Population (2028 estimates)	-	554,741	423,221	321,912	407,465	276,911
	Business Rates (£) per unit population	397.78	344.26	421.06	473.26	431.94	374.38
	Council tax income (£) per unit population	791.68	719.10	647.12	876.87	793.09	925.24
	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream % (Including County allocations)	5%	8%	6%	3%	4%	3%
High quality and sustainable services	Deprivation score	0.08	0.11	0.10	0.07	0.07	0.06
	Homelessness Rate (per 1,000 Households) Apr-Jun 2024	1.09	2.43	0.89	0.78	0.77	0.51
	Female life expectancy	84.16	83.17	83.53	84.86	84.33	85.80
	Unemployment rates	3.49	3.93	4.31	2.89	3.16	2.88
	Crime rates	71.3	88.68	102.20	58.33	-	52.75

Interim proposal (March 2025)

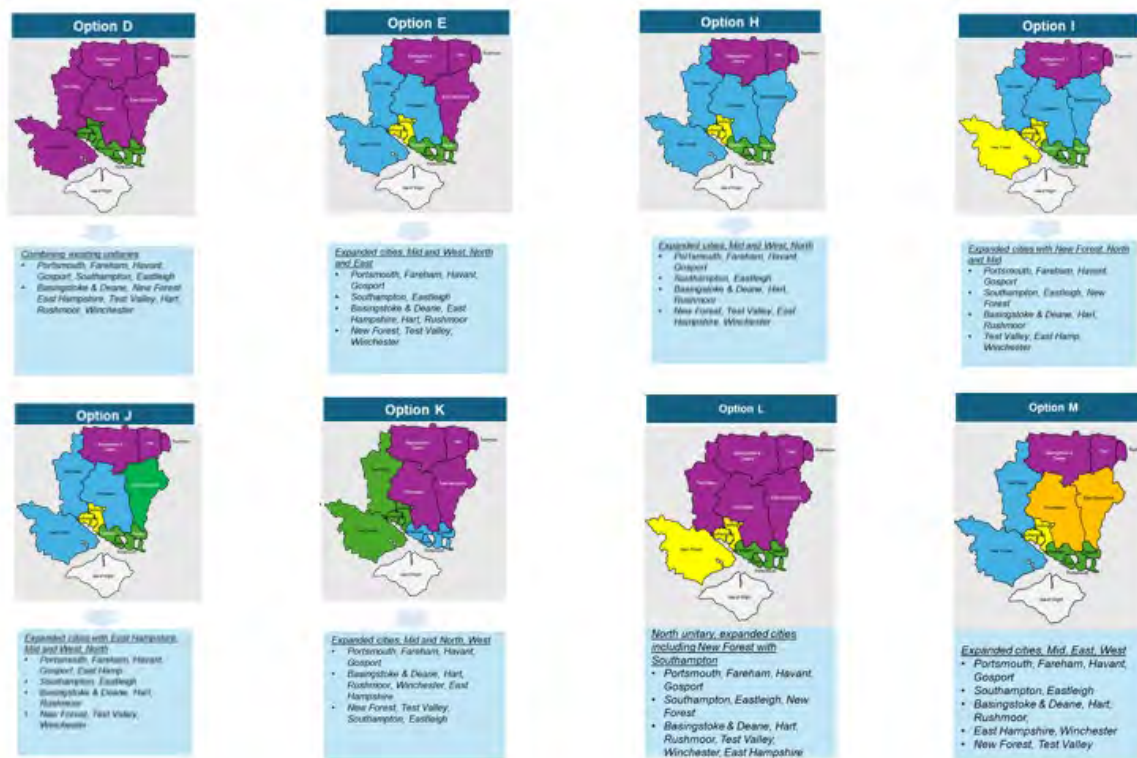
- At the interim proposal stage, there was agreement from each of the councils to not submit any of the options refined because of lack of full consensus at that stage and the need to further scrutinise each of the options through a detailed appraisal.
- In the meantime, all 15 councils agreed on the following guiding principles that would be used to underpin future decisions and incorporated into the interim proposal. A joint submission was made by the 15 councils across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, outlining the guiding principles, timelines, key areas and how councils are working together.
 1. Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that inform a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries.
 2. Sense of place and coherent identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies.
 3. To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes.
 4. Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission.
 5. Proposals will ensure there are sensible population ratios between local authorities and any strategic authority, with options retaining equitable representation and voting rights.
 6. Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services.
 7. Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes.
 8. New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability, and resilience to withstand financial shocks.

Preferred options by councils (March 2025)

- Post Interim submission, an activity was conducted whereby each council submitted their preferences on options based on their knowledge of the area and data considered to date. For completeness and transparency, this was done for each of the initial 12 options, with the seven refined options being taken forward for further analysis per the initial longlist section.
- Each council was also able to submit their preferences (below) related to boundary changes. Option M was added post-workshop after agreement from all councils that a five new mainland unitary model should also be considered as part of the options appraisal. Option D was also re-added due to council support and to ensure the detailed analysis covered options from two to five mainland unitaries. This meant that a total of eight options were taken forward to the detailed options appraisal stage (D, E, H, I, J, K, L, M).

The table and maps below show the preferred options by councils, along with boundary change details.

Council	Options													Boundary Changes
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
Hampshire CC				✓							✓	✓		
Basingstoke & Deane								✓	✓	✓				With and without boundary changes.
Rushmoor								✓	✓	✓				With and without boundary changes.
Hart								✓	✓	✓				With and without boundary changes.
Winchester								✓						Boundary changes will only be considered at a Parish boundary level and the impact of any change must be evidenced by credible data. Any new boundary proposed must also be contiguous to existing neighbourhoods and have full resident support. Any change that damages the viability of a mid Hants unitary will not be supported.
East Hampshire				✓	✓						✓	✓		Without boundary changes. Would want to assess impact of New Forest going into a southern unitary and request to be modelled.
Test Valley					✓	✓		✓					✓	Councillors have asked if variation of Option F(M) is worked up, that establishes 5 UAs. It would see Winchester and East Hampshire together and a northern UA of Basingstoke, Hart and Rushmoor. The rest of option F would remain as is.
New Forest					✓			✓						Without boundary changes.
Southampton								✓	✓					With and without boundary changes. A further option with boundary changes that is based around consolidating the urban areas to maximise the economic growth potential for the region- Southampton (all), Test Valley (Chilworth Nursling and Rownhams), Eastleigh (all), New Forest - (Waterside -Totton North, Totton Central, Totton South, Marchwood & Eling, Dibden & Dibden Purlieu, Hythe Central, Hythe South, Hardley Holbury & N Blackfield, Fawley Blackfield Calshot & Langley)
Eastleigh								✓	✓					I – without boundary changes. H – with boundary changes. <u>Option H1</u> : all of Southampton, all of Eastleigh, plus the following wards: Test Valley: Valley Park, North Baddesley, Chilworth Nursling & Rownhams, New Forest: Totton North, Totton Central, Totton South, Marchwood & Eling, Dibden & Dibden Purlieu, Hythe Central, Hythe South, Hardley Holbury & N Blackfield, Fawley Blackfield Calshot & Langley <u>Option H2</u> : as H1 plus additional Test Valley wards: Ampfield & Braishfield, Romsey Cupernham, Romsey Abbey, Romsey Tadburn.
Fareham					✓	✓		✓	✓					
Portsmouth								✓	✓					With boundary changes.
Havant								✓	✓	✓				H,I or J with boundary changes – Waterloo ville – Newlands Parish. Would welcome discussion re Denmead Ward boundaries around Rowlands Castle and Clanfield
Gosport							✓							If LGR was imposed, Option G only.
Isle of Wight			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Total	-	-	1	2	5	3	2	12	9	5	2	2	1	



Detailed options analysis process: Metrics (April 2025)

- The first activity as part of the detailed options analysis was to agree the metrics to be used to assess each of the remaining options. Each of the potential metrics were discussed with the Chief Executive group and refined based on which metrics would allow for Leaders to make an evidence-based informed decision.
- Each of the agreed upon metrics were aligned with government criteria and associated ‘assessment factors’, which were used to be more targeted for each criterion and guidance. The metrics were also aligned with the agreed upon guiding principles submitted as part of the Interim proposal.

- A combination of quantitative and qualitative metrics was agreed as part of this process, with relevant data sources identified. Some sources were available public, whereas other service demand and financial data was requested as part of the council s151 data request (used also to inform the financial case).

Assessment Factor	Guiding Principles	Metric	Data Source
Government Criteria 1.			
Sensible economic area	1 3 8	Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita	ONS Regional gross domestic product: local authorities (2022)
	1 3 8	Unemployment Rates	ONS LI01 Regional labour market data
	1 3 8	Gross disposable household income per head	ONS GDHI 2024
	1 3 4	Transport connectivity	Local transport maps (rail and road)
	1 2 3	Alignment to major Hampshire and the Isle of Wight industries	Hampshire County Council Economic Dashboard
	1 2 3	Travel to work areas alignment (2011 & 2021 maps used)	Travel to Work Areas (December 2011) Boundaries UK BUC Travel to Work Areas (December 2021) Boundaries UK BUC
Tax base	1 3 8	Council Tax base	Council Websites / S151 data request

	1 3 8	Business rates total rateable value	Total Rateable Value by Local Authority / S151 data request
Sensible economic area	1 3 8	Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita	ONS Regional gross domestic product: local authorities (2022)
	1 3 8	Unemployment Rates	ONS LI01 Regional labour market data
	1 3 8	Gross disposable household income per head	ONS GDHI 2024
	1 3 4	Transport connectivity	Local transport maps (rail and road)
	1 2 3	Alignment to major Hampshire and the Isle of Wight industries	Hampshire County Council Economic Dashboard
	1 2 3	Travel to work areas alignment (2011 & 2021 maps used)	Travel to Work Areas (December 2011) Boundaries UK BUC Travel to Work Areas (December 2021) Boundaries UK BUC
Tax base	1 3 8	Council Tax base	Council Websites / S151 data request
	1 3 8	Business rates total rateable value	Total Rateable Value by Local Authority / S151 data request
Sensible geography	1 2 3 5	Geographic Area (sqkm)	ONS Standard Area Measurements for

			Administrative Areas (December 2023) in the UK
Housing supply	1 3 7 8	Latest Housing delivery test measurements (2023)	Government Housing Delivery Test: 2023
	1 3 7 8	LA and private housing stock per head	ONS Number of dwellings by tenure and district
Local needs	6 7 8	Level of deprivation	ONS income deprivation at a local authority level 2019
	1 2 4 6 7	Ability to meet local rural requirements (e.g. access to services, sense of community)	Qualitative discussion of options
Government Criteria 2.			
Population size	1 2 3 5	Average unitary 2028 Predicted Population	ONS Estimates of the population for England and Wales 2023 local authority boundaries edition
Transition costs	7 8	Transition cost per head of population	Data Request from S151
Potential financial efficiencies	7 8	Gross Central Service Costs	Data Request from S151
	7 8	Gross Staff costs	Data Request from S151
	7 8	Gross Costs of IT licenses	Data Request from S151

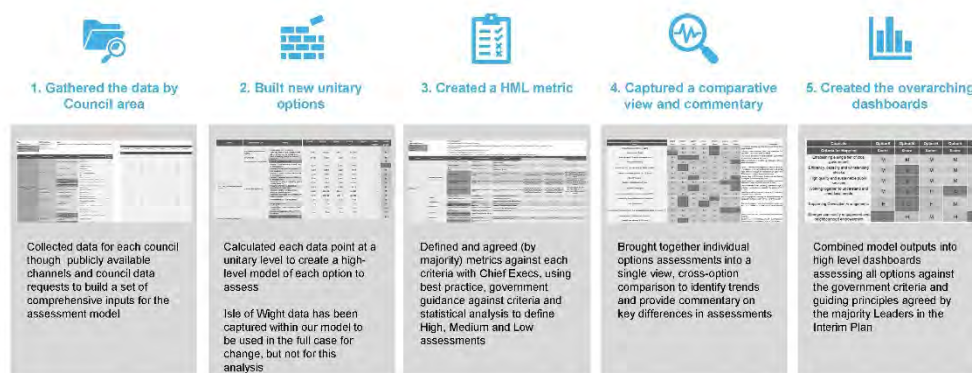
	7 8	Gross Costs of Third Party spend	Data Request from S151
	7 8	Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates	Data Request from S151
	7 8	Potential savings delivered from LGR	Data Request from S151
	7 8	Social Care Ratio	Social Care Ratio
Establishing firmer financial footing	7 8	Gross Budget Gap (2026/2027)	Latest published Council Financial Statements
Council debt	7 8	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	Data Request from S151
Government Criteria 3.			
Avoiding service fragmentation	6 7 8	Service fragmentation caused	Shortlisted options
Crucial service protection	6 7	Number of older adults in adult social care as % total population	Service Data Request from Corporate Strategy Teams
	6 7	Number of adults in adult social care as % total population	Service Data Request from Corporate Strategy Teams
	6 7	Number of children in children's social care as % total population	Service Data Request from Corporate Strategy Teams
	6 7	Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	Service Data Request from Corporate Strategy Teams

	6 7	Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)	DHSC health profiles
	6 7	Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	DHSC health profiles
Government Criteria 4.			
Local Identity	1 2 3 4	Sense of place, community & identity	Community engagement activity outputs
	1 2 3 4 7	Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)	Rural Urban Classification
Government Criteria 5			
Unlocking devolution	2 3 4 7	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment	Future unitary management structures and overheads
Population within a Strategic Authority	1 3 5	Representation within a future Combined Authority	Population 2028 balance, significant outliers
Government Criteria 6			
Engagement planning	4 5 7	The ability to maintain effective local engagement	Shortlisted options
Existing engagement arrangements	1 2 3 4 7	Level of existing local network structures (Town and Parish Councils)	Existing Parished and non-Parished areas

	1 2 3 4 7	Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSEs/CVS	Existing initiatives across the current councils e.g. health and wellbeing, VCSE organisations
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Detailed options analysis process: Modelling (April 2025)

- Data was gathered following agreement on the metrics for the detailed appraisal and entered into a model. This model focused on creating balanced and financially sustainable future unitary authorities that would deliver effective services for the communities. (For this analysis, Isle of Wight figures were excluded as a separate case for remaining as-is was under development, which would have skewed the analysis.) The image below provides an overview of the process from raw data to analysis outcomes of the options considered for refinement.
- Inputted and continuously validated financial information with s151s, as well as data collated by each council into the model. The finances captured from each council covered revenue budgets and medium-term forecasts, reserves and provisions, balance sheet, capital programme, statutory and ring-fenced accounts, existing shared services, pooled budgets, and contracts.



- Step 1 of the analysis process (shown in the tables below) was to define 'High', 'Medium' and 'Low' parameters, created by averages based on the data received, split into third percentiles. In some cases, the difference between 'High', 'Medium' and 'Low' parameters were miniscule due to small differences between unitary data.

Metric	Measurement		
	High	Medium	Low
Unemployment Rates	1.27%	1.27% - 1.74%	1.74%
Local authority and private housing stock per head	0.021	0.021 - 0.028	0.028
Level of deprivation	0.039	0.039 - 0.040	0.040
Social Care Ratio	4.478%	4.48% - 4.49%	4.493%
Number of older adults in adult social care % total population	0.98%	0.98% - 1.15%	1.15%
Number of adults in adult social care % total population	0.31%	0.31% - 0.53%	0.53%
Number of children in children's social care % total population	0.37%	0.37% - 0.37%	0.37%
Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	0.29%	0.29% - 0.55%	0.55%
Proportion of children in relative low income families (under 16s)*	8.84%	8.84% - 9.02%	9.02%
Proportion of children in absolute low income families (under 16s)*	7.53%	7.53% - 7.58%	7.58%
Homelessness per 1,000 households	1.74	1.74 - 1.79	1.79
Rough sleeper count	16.97	16.97 - 19.88	19.88
Households on housing register per head of population	0.01599	0.02 - 0.02	0.02156
Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 households	2.90	2.90 - 3.37	3.37




- Step 2 of the analysis was then to apply a ‘High’, ‘Medium’ or ‘Low’ to each of the options based on how many metrics were assessed as ‘High’, ‘Medium’ or ‘Low’. This meant that options could be assessed easily on a macro-level but also at a detailed metric-by-metric level. The result of this exercise can be seen on the series of images below.

Option H




Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Data	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	M	Sensible economic area	Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita	£17,853	M	£32,596	£46,957	£37,186	£28,005
			Unemployment Rates	1.71%	M	2.91%	3.29%	4.62%	4.12%
			Gross disposable household income per head	£7,736	L	£27,667	£25,546	£19,950	£21,130
			Transport connectivity	-	H	Good transport connectivity alignment. Arguably East Hampshire faces into the South via the A3, and North / into London			
			Alignment to major Hampshire and the Solent industries	-	M	Good alignment to Defence and Aerospace, partial alignment to Digital tech, fair alignment to Finance and Tourism and Professional (although evenly dispersed), Maritime split across waterways with NF			
			Travel to Work Areas (2011 / 2021 maps)	-	M	East Hampshire better aligned to Havant and Portsmouth, Winchester, New Forest and Test Valley flows lean towards Southampton and Eastleigh. Strong Southampton and Eastleigh alignment, as well as U1 areas			
		Tax base	Council Tax base	116,591	L	235,472	146,508	116,921	174,170
			Business rates total rateable value (£m)	£77.13	M	£244.31	£170.46	£167.19	£163.33
		Sensible geography	Geographic Area (sqkm)	2,437 km2	L	2,679 km2	888 km2	142 km2	245 km2
		Housing supply	Latest Housing delivery test measurements (2023)	105%	L	126%	148%	76%	44%
			LA and private housing stock per head	0.03	L	0.45	0.42	0.43	0.44
		Local needs	Level of deprivation	0.041	L	0.07	0.07	0.10	0.11
			Ability to meet local rural requirements (e.g. access to services, sense of community)	-	H	Strong alignment with Rural / Urban classification across areas			

Option H

Option H	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Expanded cities, Mid and West, North 	Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	Population size	Average unitary 2028 Predicted Population	406,063 (ave)	M	508,823	407,465	423,221	554,741
			Transition costs	Transition cost per head of population	4	M	4 unitaries			
			Potential financial efficiencies	Gross Central Service Costs (000s)	£10,735	H	£32,268	£29,231	£27,418	£21,533
				Gross Staff costs (000s)	£132,883	M	£233,392	£160,045	£194,684	£282,728
				Gross Costs of IT licenses (000s)	£2,877	M	£7,084	£6,097	£7,304	£6,974
				Gross Costs of Third Party spend (000s)	£178,066	M	£534,607	£360,555	£538,622	£451,513
				Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates (000s)	£180,199	L	-£413,739	-£283,198	-£233,620	-£348,846
				Potential savings delivered through LGR	4	M	4 unitaries			
				Social Care Ratio	4.46%	M	86.84%	86.84%	87.43%	91.33%
			Establishing firmer financial footing	Budget gap 25/27 (000s)	£38,378	L	£55,047	£42,078	£16,969	£33,532
			Council debt	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	14.92%	M	2.77%	0.41%	15.03%	6.14%

Option H

Option H	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Expanded cities, Mid and West, North 	High quality and sustainable public services	M	Avoiding service fragmentation	Service fragmentation caused	4	M	Prior to LGR there are 3 upper-tier authorities, in this option there will be 4 new upper-tier leading to a lower level of fragmentation			
			Crucial service protection	Number of older adults in adult social care % total population	0.99%	M	6.10%	5.21%	5.31%	5.22%
				Number of adults in adult social care % total population	0.46%	M	1.10%	0.84%	0.98%	0.92%
				Number of children in children's social care % total population	0.37%	M	0.57%	0.51%	0.68%	0.68%
				Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	0.14%	H	4.84%	4.73%	4.80%	4.89%
				Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)	8.84%	M	11.74%	10.84%	19.78%	19.73%
				Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	7.53%	M	8.81%	8.16%	16.66%	16.61%
				Gross Environmental and regulatory services spend (000s)	£34,145	L	£67,583	£40,904	£33,418	£60,409
				Gross Highways and transport services spend (000s)	£17,365	M	£23,964	£22,890	£15,796	£33,161
				Homelessness per 1,000 households	1.77	M	0.70	0.77	0.82	2.47
				Rough sleeper count	18.00	M	13	5	26	18
				Households on housing register (or waiting list) per head of population	0.02	L	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.01
				Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 population	3.37	L	2.51	0.77	2.32	4.14

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted earlier in the session.

Option H

Option H	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
<u>Expanded cities, Mid and West North</u>	Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	Local identity	Sense of place, community and identity	-	H	Boundaries reflect established communities and resident sense of place			
				Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)	35.53%	L	35.71%	29.22%	0.18%	0.90%
Supporting devolution arrangements	Unlocking devolution	H	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment*		-	H	*Sense of place and community would be a good indicator of local leadership and community empowerment, although discussion would be required as to the community aspect regarding East Hampshire			
			Population within a Strategic Authority	Representation within a future Combined Authority	-191,358	M	598,823	407,465	423,221	554,741
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	Engagement planning	M	The ability to maintain effective local engagement		-	M	4 unitaries			
			Level of existing local network structures* (Town and Parish Councils)		-	M	U3 is imbalanced, combining a parished council and unparished unitary together			
			Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSEs/CVS*		116	M	234	213	118	205

Guiding Principles

Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that inform a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries	Sense of place and coherent identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies	To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes	Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission	Sensible population ratios between local authorities and any strategic authority	Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services	Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes	New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability, and resilience to withstand financial shocks
H	H	N/A	N/A	M	M	M	M

Option I

Option I	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
<u>Expanded cities with New Forest North and Mid</u>	Establishing a single tier of Local Government	M	Sensible economic area	Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita	£17,883	M	£25,606	£32,802	£45,957	£28,006
				Unemployment Rates	1.47%	M	4.21%	2.75%	3.29%	4.12%
				Gross disposable household income per head	£7,032	M	£21,979	£28,182	£25,546	£21,130
				Transport connectivity	-	H	Good transport connectivity alignment. Arguably East Hampshire faces into the South via the A3, and North / into London.			
				Alignment to major Hampshire and the Solent industries	-	H	Good alignment to Defence and Aerospace, and Tourism. Partial alignment to Digital tech, fair alignment to Finance and Professional (although evenly dispersed). Maritime aligned with water-side including NF			
				Travel to Work Areas (2011 / 2021 maps)	-	H	East Hampshire better aligned to Havant and Portsmouth. Winchester, New Forest and Test Valley flows lean towards Southampton and Eastleigh. Strong Southampton and Eastleigh alignment with New Forest			
			Tax base	Council Tax base	43,788	H	190,276	160,117	145,508	174,170
				Business rates total rateable value (£m)	£74.31	M	£242.91	£168.59	£170.46	£183.33
			Sensible geography	Geographic Area (sqkm)	1,558 km2	H	917 km2	1,803 km2	888 km2	245 km2
			Housing supply	Latest Housing delivery test measurements (2023)	106%	L	76%	136%	148%	44%
				LA and private housing stock per head	5.03	M	0.44	0.43	0.42	0.44
			Local needs	Level of deprivation	0.044	L	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.11
				Ability to meet local rural requirements (e.g. access to services, sense of community)	-	M	Fair alignment with Rural / Urban classification across areas. New Forest and Southampton potential misalignment.			

Government criteria and guiding principles scoring overview			
Establishing a single tier of local government	M	1	H
Efficiency, capacity and self-sustaining growth	M	2	M
High quality and sustainable public services	-	3	N/A
Working together to understand and meet local needs	-	4	N/A
Supporting devolution arrangements	M	5	M
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	H	6	M
		7	M
		8	M

Option I



Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	Population size	Average unitary 2028 Predicted Population	496,063 (ave)	M	604,885	417,159	407,485	554,741
		Transition costs	Transition cost per head of population	4	M	4 unitaries			
		Potential financial efficiencies	Gross Central Service Costs (000s)	£14,326	M	£26,868	£23,827	£26,231	£21,533
			Gross Staff costs (000s)	£132,883	M	£266,170	£161,906	£160,045	£292,728
			Gross Costs of IT licenses (000s)	£4,587	L	£9,787	£5,230	£6,097	£8,974
			Gross Costs of Third Party spend (000s)	£346,010	L	£705,585	£307,563	£300,565	£451,513
			Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates (000s)	£79,710	H	£362,808	£284,480	£283,199	£348,849
			Potential savings delivered through LGR	4	M	4 unitaries			
			Social Care Ratio	4.49%	M	87.37%	86.84%	86.84%	91.33%
		Establishing firmer financial footing	Budget gap 26/27 (000s)	£8,855	H	£33,423	£38,293	£42,078	£33,532
		Council debt	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	11.33%	M	11.74%	1.88%	0.41%	6.14%

Option I



Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
High quality and sustainable public services	L	Avoiding service fragmentation	Service fragmentation caused	4	M	Prior to LGR there are 3 upper-tier authorities. In this option there will be 4 new upper-tier leading to a lower level of fragmentation			
		Crucial service protection	Number of older adults in adult social care % total population	1.16%	L	6.46%	0.38%	6.21%	5.22%
			Number of adults in adult social care % total population	0.41%	M	1.00%	1.03%	0.64%	0.92%
			Number of children in children's social care % total population	0.37%	M	0.83%	0.52%	0.51%	0.88%
			Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	0.72%	L	5.13%	4.40%	4.73%	4.69%
			Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)	9.08%	L	18.40%	10.85%	10.94%	16.73%
			Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	7.85%	L	15.55%	9.96%	9.16%	16.61%
			Gross Environmental and regulatory services spend (000s)	£19,505	M	£57,288	£43,895	£40,804	£60,408
			Gross Highways and transport services spend (000s)	£16,101	M	£22,720	£17,080	£22,890	£33,161
			Homelessness per 1,000 households	1.79	L	0.88	0.88	0.77	2.47
			Rough sleeper count	20	L	28	11	8	18
			Households on housing register (or waiting list) per head of population	0.02	M	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
			Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 population	3.37	L	2.91	1.70	0.77	4.14

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted earlier in the session.

Option I

Option I	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Expanded cities with New Forest, North and Mid	Working together to understand and meet local needs	L	Local identity	Sense of place, community and identity	-	M	Boundaries reflect established communities and modest sense of place, potential misalignment with New Forest and Southampton communities			
				Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)	37.38%	L	9.56%	37.88%	20.22%	0.50%
	Supporting devolution arrangements	M	Unlocking devolution	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment*	-	M	Sense of place and community would be a good indicator of local leadership and community empowerment, although discussion would be required as to the community aspect regarding East Hampshire			
			Population within a Strategic Authority	Representation within a future Combined Authority	197,420	M	604,885	417,159	407,465	554,741
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment		H	Engagement planning	Population density enabling the ability to maintain effective local engagement*	-	M	4 unitaries			
			Existing engagement arrangements	Level of existing local network structures* (Town and Parish Councils)	-	H	No significant imbalances in parish representation within unitaries			
				Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSE/CVS*	45	H	167	195	213	205

Guiding Principles

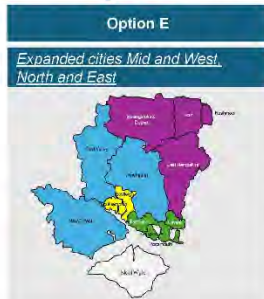
Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that inform a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries.	Sense of place and coherent identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies.	To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes.	Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission.	Sensible population ratios between local authorities and any strategic authority.	Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services.	Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes.	New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability and resilience to withstand financial shocks.
H	M	N/A	N/A	M	M	M	M

Option E




Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	M	Sensible economic area	Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita	£12,392	M	£28,005	£37,185	£35,422	£40,397
			Unemployment Rates	1.78%	L	4.12%	4.62%	2.85%	3.25%
			Gross disposable household income per head	£7,371	M	£21,130	£19,950	£27,322	£36,380
			Transport connectivity	-	M	Fair transport connectivity alignment. Arguably East Hampshire could better suit the South and potential misalignment with Winchester and New Forest			
			Alignment to major Hampshire and the Solent industries	-	M	Good alignment to Defence and Aerospace, partial alignment to Digital tech, fair alignment to Finance and Tourism and Professional (although evenly dispersed), Maritime aligned with waterside including HF			
			Travel to Work Areas (2011 / 2021 maps)	-	M	East Hampshire better aligns to Havant and Portsmouth, Winchester, New Forest and Test Valley forces lean towards Southampton and Eastleigh. Strong Southampton and Eastleigh alignment, as well as U1 areas			
		Tax base	Council Tax base	82,410	M	174,170	116,921	180,649	196,331
			Business rates total rateable value (£m)	£44.73	H	£183.33	£167.19	£211.91	£202.88
		Sensible geography	Geographic Area (sqkm)	1,923 km2	M	245 km2	142 km2	2,084 km2	1,403 km2
		Housing supply	Latest Housing delivery test measurements (2023)	96%	M	44%	76%	140%	131%

Option E




Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	Population size	Average unitary 2028 Predicted Population	496,063 (avg)	M	504,741	423,221	464,240	542,048
			Transition cost per head of population	4	M	4 unitaries			
		Potential financial efficiencies	Gross Central Service Costs (000s)	£18,244	L	£21,533	£27,418	£21,722	£39,777
			Gross Staff costs (000s)	£110,702	M	£292,726	£194,884	£182,026	£211,410
			Gross Costs of IT licenses (000s)	£2,940	M	£8,974	£7,304	£6,033	£7,727
			Gross Costs of Third Party spend (000s)	£124,044	H	£451,513	£538,622	£414,578	£480,484
			Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates (000s)	£141,580	M	£348,848	£233,829	£322,258	£374,679
			Potential savings delivered through LGR	4	M	4 unitaries			
			Social Care Ratio	4.48%	M	91.33%	87.43%	86.84%	86.84%
		Establishing firmer financial footing	Budget gap 26/27 (000s)	£37,445	M	£33,532	£16,669	£43,011	£54,113
		Council debt	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	14.85%	L	6.14%	15.03%	3.48%	0.39%

Option E

Option E	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Expanded cities Mid and West, North and East 	High quality and sustainable public services	M	Avoiding service fragmentation	Service fragmentation caused	4	M	Prior to LGR there are 3 upper-tier authorities. In this option there will be 4 new upper-tier, leading to a lower level of fragmentation			
			Crucial service protection	Number of older adults in adult social care % total population	1.41%	L	5.22%	5.31%	5.53%	5.59%
				Number of adults in adult social care % total population	0.64%	L	0.92%	0.96%	1.20%	0.96%
				Number of children in children's social care % total population	0.37%	M	0.86%	0.88%	0.58%	0.51%
				Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	0.30%	M	4.89%	4.80%	4.99%	4.68%
				Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)	8.79%	H	19.73%	19.78%	11.81%	10.99%
				Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	7.48%	H	16.61%	16.69%	10.06%	9.21%
				Gross Environmental and regulatory services spend (000s)	£26,991	M	£60,409	£33,418	£53,181	£55,287
				Gross Highways and transport services spend (000s)	£17,365	M	£33,161	£15,706	£18,746	£28,128
				Homelessness per 1,000 households	1.79	M	2.47	0.92	0.76	0.68
				Rough sleeper count	16	H	18	26	11	10
				Households on housing register (or waiting list) per head of population	0.02	L	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.02
				Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 population	3.29	M	4.14	2.32	2.90	0.88

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted earlier in the session.

Option E

Option E	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Expanded cities Mid and West, North and East 	Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	Local identity	Sense of place, community and identity	-	M	Boundaries reflect established communities and resident sense of place. East Hampshire communities potentially misaligned			
				Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)	35.24%	M	0.50%	0.18%	35.42%	24.27%
	Supporting devolution arrangements	H	Unlocking devolution	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment*	-	M	Sense of place and community would be a good indicator of local leadership and community empowerment, although discussion would be required as to the community aspect regarding East Hampshire			
			Population within a Strategic Authority	Representation within a future Combined Authority	131,620	H	654,741	423,221	464,240	542,048
	Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	L	Engagement planning	Population density enabling the ability to maintain effective local engagement*	-	M	4 unitaries			
			Existing engagement arrangements	Level of existing local network structures* (e.g. Town and Parish Councils)	-	M	U2 is imbalanced, combining a parish council and unparished unitary together			
				Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSEs/CVS*	150	L	205	118	179	268

Guiding Principles

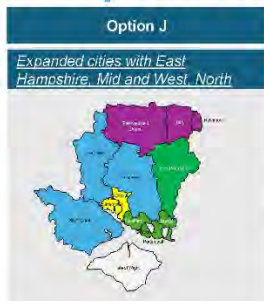
Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that inform a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries.	Sense of place and coherent identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies	To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes	Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission	Sensitive population ratios between local authorities and any strategic authority	Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services	Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes	New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability, and resilience to withstand financial shocks
H	M	N/A	N/A	H	M	M	M

Option J



Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	M	Sensible economic area	Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita	£18,885	L	£27,092	£35,422	£37,166	£45,957
			Unemployment Rates	1.79%	L	2.93%	2.85%	4.62%	3.29%
			Gross disposable household income per head	£7,371	M	£22,648	£27,322	£19,950	£25,546
			Transport connectivity	-	M	Fair transport connectivity alignment with perhaps Winchester and New Forest misalignment			
			Alignment to major Hampshire and the Solent industries	-	M	Fair alignment with Aerospace and defence (TV, Winchester and Portsmouth higher concentration), Digital technologies (Winchester better aligned with North), Finance and professional dispersed throughout, Maritime alignment between New Forest and Solent			
			Travel to Work Areas (2011 / 2021 maps)	-	H	East Hampshire aligned to Havant and Portsmouth, Winchester, New Forest and Test Valley focus lean towards Southampton and Eastleigh, Strong Southampton and Eastleigh alignment			
		Tax base	Council Tax base	110,072	L	226,984	180,849	116,921	146,508
			Business rates total rateable value (£m)	£46.64	H	£216.79	£211.31	£167.19	£170.46
		Sensible geography	Geographic Area (sqkm)	1,923 km2	M	759 km2	2,064 km2	142 km2	588 km2
		Housing supply	Latest Housing delivery test measurements (2023)	94%	H	55%	140%	78%	148%
		Local needs	LA and private housing stock per head	0.03	L	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.42
			Level of deprivation	0.034	H	0.10	0.07	0.10	0.07
			Ability to meet local rural requirements (e.g. access to services, sense of community)	-	M	Fair alignment with Rural / Urban classification across areas, West and North better aligned together with similar classification, Winchester and East Hampshire similar classification			

Option J



Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Efficiency capacity and withstanding shocks	M	Population size	Average unitary 2026 Predicted Population	496,093 (ave)	M	959,324	404,240	423,221	407,466
		Transition costs	Transition cost per head of population	4	M	4 unitaries			
		Potential financial efficiencies	Gross Central Service Costs (000s)	£10,356	H	£32,078	£21,722	£27,418	£29,231
			Gross Staff costs (000s)	£154,049	L	£244,083	£182,026	£194,684	£190,045
			Gross Costs of IT licenses (000s)	£4,571	L	£10,604	£6,033	£7,304	£9,097
			Gross Costs of Third Party spend (000s)	£210,887	M	£571,442	£414,578	£538,622	£389,555
			Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates (000s)	£206,898	L	£440,327	£322,758	£233,629	£283,198
			Potential savings delivered through LGR	4	M	4 unitaries			
			Social Care Ratio	3.98%	H	90.82%	96.94%	87.43%	85.84%
		Establishing firmer financial footing	Budget gap 26/27 (000s)	£28,899	M	£45,967	£43,011	£19,669	£42,078
		Council debt	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	14.62%	M	5.21%	3.46%	15.03%	0.41%

Option J

Option J	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Expanded cities with East Hampshire, Mid and West, North 	High quality and sustainable public services	M	Avoiding service fragmentation	Service fragmentation caused	4	M	Prior to UGR there are 3 upper-tier authorities, in this option there will be 4 new upper-tier leading to a lower level of fragmentation			
			Crucial service protection	Number of older adults in adult social care % total population	1.63%	L	5.00%	6.63%	5.31%	6.21%
				Number of adults in adult social care % total population	0.56%	L	0.89%	1.20%	0.96%	0.84%
				Number of children in children's social care % total population	0.37%	M	0.81%	0.66%	0.68%	0.51%
				Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	0.31%	M	4.84%	4.96%	4.80%	4.73%
				Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)	8.84%	M	18.07%	11.91%	19.78%	10.94%
				Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	7.53%	M	15.21%	10.06%	16.69%	9.16%
				Gross Environmental and regulatory services spend (000s)	£41,374	L	£74,792	£53,181	£30,418	£49,904
				Gross Highways and transport services spend (000s)	£22,802	L	£38,398	£18,746	£16,798	£22,880
				Homelessness per 1,000 households	1.35	H	2.11	0.76	0.92	0.77
				Rough sleeper count	18	M	20	11	28	8
				Households on housing register (or waiting list) per head of population	0.02	M	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.02
				Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 population	2.82	H	3.69	2.90	2.32	0.77

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted earlier in the session.


Option J

Option J	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Expanded cities with East Hampshire, Mid and West, North 	Working together to understand and meet local needs	H	Local identity	Sense of place, community and identity		H	Boundaries reflect established communities and resident sense of place			
				Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)	35.34%	M	7.54%	35.42%	0.18%	20.22%
	Supporting devolution arrangements	M	Unlocking devolution	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment*		H	Sense of place and community would be a good indicator of local leadership and community empowerment, although discussion would be required as to the community aspect regarding East Hampshire			
			Population within a Strategic Authority	Representation within a future Combined Authority	281,859	L	689,324	464,240	423,221	407,465
	Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	L	Engagement planning	Population density enabling the ability to maintain effective local engagement*	-	M	4 unitaries			
			Existing engagement arrangements	Level of existing local network structures* (Town and Parish Councils)	-	L	U1 and U3 are imbalanced, combining parished and unparished councils and an unparished unitary together			
				Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSEs/CVS*	142	L	260	179	118	213


Guiding Principles

Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that inform a sense of place, community and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries	Sense of place and coherent identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies	To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes	Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission	Baseline population will be used to help shape local authorities and any strategic authority	Consideration will be given to the impact on social services	Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes	New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability, and resilience to withstand financial shocks
H	H	N/A	N/A	L	M	M	M


Option K

Option K	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3		
Expanded cities, Mid and North West	Establishing a single tier of Local Government	M	Sensible economic area	Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita	£13,438	M	£34,510	£28,006	£41,443		
				Unemployment Rates	0.99%	H	3.88%	4.12%	3.12%		
				Gross disposable household income per head	£5,897	H	£22,758	£21,130	£27,027		
				Transport connectivity	-	M	Fair alignment however potential issues with U3 not making practical sense for those communities on opposite sides who do not travel to one another				
				Alignment to major Hampshire and the Solent industries	-	M	Fair alignment with Aerospace and defence (TV, Winchester and Portsmouth higher concentration), Digital technologies (Winchester aligned with North), Finance and professional dispersed throughout, Maritime alignment between New Forest and Solent				
				Travel to Work Areas (2011 / 2021 maps)	-	M	East Hampshire better aligned to South, Winchester flows lean towards Southampton and Eastleigh, Strong Southampton and Eastleigh alignment				
Tax base			Council Tax base	80,048	M	242,653	174,170	294,218			
			Business rates total rateable value (£m)	£130.50	L	£313.83	£183.33	£268.13			
Sensible geography			Geographic Area (sqkm)	1,819 km2	M	1,545 km2	245 km2	2,064 km2			
Housing supply			Latest Housing delivery test measurements (2023)	97%	M	89%	44%	141%			
			LA and private housing stock per head	0.02	M	0.44	0.44	0.42			
Local needs			Level of deprivation	0.039	M	0.09	0.11	0.07			
			Ability to meet local rural requirements (e.g. access to services, sense of community)	-	L	Poor alignment with Rural / Urban classification across most areas, West and North better aligned together with similar classification, Winchester and East Hampshire similar classification, The Solent region is a similar classification.					
Government criteria and guiding principles scoring overview											
Establishing a single tier of local government			M	1	L						
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	H	2	L								
High quality services across public services	M	3	N/A								
Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	4	N/A								
Supporting devolution arrangements	M	5	M								
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	L	6	L								
		7	M								
		8	H								

Option K

Option K	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3																													
<div>Expanded cities, Mid and North West</div> 	Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	H	Population size	Average unitary 2026 Predicted Population	661,417 (ave)	H	745,133	554,741	684,376																													
			Transition costs	Transition cost per head of population	3	H	3 unitaries																															
			Potential financial efficiencies	Gross Central Service Costs (000s)	£25,958	L	£41,428	£21,533	£47,491																													
				Gross Staff costs (000s)	£63,943	H	£326,032	£292,728	£267,089																													
				Gross Costs of IT licenses (000s)	£2,187	H	£11,160	£6,974	£9,904																													
				Gross Costs of Third Party spend (000s)	£385,407	L	£636,920	£451,513	£596,763																													
				Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates (000s)	£122,261	M	£459,458	£348,846	£471,107																													
				Potential savings delivered through LGR	3	H	3 unitaries																															
				Social Care Ratio	4.49%	M	87.34%	91.33%	86.84%																													
			Establishing firmer financial footing	Budget gap 26/27 (000s)	£33,190	M	£47,071	£33,532	£66,722																													
			Council debt	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	3.22%	H	9.58%	6.14%	1.36%																													
			Government criteria and guiding principles scoring overview																																			
			<table><tr><td>Establishing a single tier of local government</td><td>M</td><td>1</td><td>L</td></tr><tr><td>Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks</td><td>H</td><td>2</td><td>L</td></tr><tr><td>High quality services across public services</td><td>M</td><td>3</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>Working together to understand and meet local needs</td><td>M</td><td>4</td><td>M</td></tr><tr><td>Supporting devolution arrangements</td><td>L</td><td>5</td><td>L</td></tr><tr><td>Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment</td><td>L</td><td>6</td><td>M</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>7</td><td>M</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>8</td><td>H</td></tr></table>							Establishing a single tier of local government	M	1	L	Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	H	2	L	High quality services across public services	M	3	N/A	Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	4	M	Supporting devolution arrangements	L	5	L	Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	L	6	M			7	M	
Establishing a single tier of local government	M	1	L																																			
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	H	2	L																																			
High quality services across public services	M	3	N/A																																			
Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	4	M																																			
Supporting devolution arrangements	L	5	L																																			
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	L	6	M																																			
		7	M																																			
		8	H																																			

Option K

Option K	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3
Expanded cities, Mid and North, West 	High quality and sustainable public services	M	Crucial service protection	Avoiding service fragmentation	3	H	Prior to LGR there are 3 upper-tier authorities, in this option there will be 3 new upper-tier leading to a lower level of fragmentation		
				Number of older adults in adult social care % total population	0.84%	H	5.84%	5.22%	5.06%
				Number of adults in adult social care % total population	0.31%	M	1.07%	0.92%	0.76%
				Number of children in children's social care % total population	0.40%	L	0.81%	0.88%	0.48%
				Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	0.50%	M	5.04%	4.69%	4.54%
				Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)	9.03%	L	16.87%	19.73%	10.71%
				Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	7.56%	L	14.28%	18.61%	9.03%
				Gross Environmental and regulatory services spend (000s)	£11,134	H	£70,343	£80,409	£71,543
				Gross Highways and transport services spend (000s)	£3,021	H	£30,139	£33,161	£32,531
				Homelessness per 1,000 households	1.78	L	0.87	2.47	0.69
				Rough sleeper count	17	M	32.00	18.00	15.00
				Households on housing register (or waiting list) per head of population	0.02	H	0.02	0.01	0.02
				Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 population	3.23	M	2.89	4.14	0.91

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted earlier in the session.


Option K

Option K	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3
Expanded cities, Mid and North, West 	Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	Local identity	Sense of place, community and identity	-	L	Mismatch of communities between NPTV and Southampton. Potential misalignment between Winchester and the North.		
				Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)	27.88%	H	13.89%	0.50%	28.40%
	Supporting devolution arrangements	L	Unlocking devolution	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment*	-	L	Potential misalignment between communities and leadership of authorities making it difficult to empower citizens		
			Population within a Strategic Authority	Representation within a future Combined Authority	190,392	M	745,133	564,741	684,376
	Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	L	Engagement planning	The ability to maintain effective local engagement*	-	L	3 unitaries		
			Existing engagement arrangements	Level of existing local network structures* (Town and Parish Councils)	-	M	U1 would be imbalanced, combining 3 parished districts with an unparished unitary		
				Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSE/CVS*	128	M	234	205	331


Guiding Principles

Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that reflect a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries	Sense of place and coherent identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies	To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes	Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission	Sensible population ratios between local authorities and any strategic authority	Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services	Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes	New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability, and resilience to withstand financial shocks
L	L	N/A	N/A	M	H	M	H


Option L

Option L	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3																																
 <p>Government criteria and guiding principles scoring overview</p> <table><tr><td>Establishing a single tier of local government</td><td>M</td><td>1</td><td>L</td></tr><tr><td>Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks</td><td>M</td><td>2</td><td>L</td></tr><tr><td>High quality and sustainable public services</td><td>M</td><td>3</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>Working together to understand and meet local needs</td><td>M</td><td>4</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>Supporting devolution arrangements</td><td>L</td><td>5</td><td>L</td></tr><tr><td>Supporting devolution arrangements</td><td>L</td><td>6</td><td>H</td></tr><tr><td>Supporting devolution arrangements</td><td>L</td><td>7</td><td>M</td></tr><tr><td>Supporting devolution arrangements</td><td>L</td><td>8</td><td>M</td></tr></table>	Establishing a single tier of local government	M	1	L	Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	2	L	High quality and sustainable public services	M	3	N/A	Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	4	N/A	Supporting devolution arrangements	L	5	L	Supporting devolution arrangements	L	6	H	Supporting devolution arrangements	L	7	M	Supporting devolution arrangements	L	8	M	Establishing a single tier of Local Government	M	Sensible economic area	Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita	£11,464	H	£25,005	£35,606	£39,459
	Establishing a single tier of local government	M	1	L																																					
	Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	2	L																																					
	High quality and sustainable public services	M	3	N/A																																					
	Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	4	N/A																																					
	Supporting devolution arrangements	L	5	L																																					
	Supporting devolution arrangements	L	6	H																																					
	Supporting devolution arrangements	L	7	M																																					
	Supporting devolution arrangements	L	8	M																																					
	Unemployment Rates	1.20%	H	4.12%	4.21%	3.02%																																			
Gross disposable household income per head	£5,135	H	£21,130	£21,979	£26,865																																				
Transport connectivity	—	L	Transport connectivity for U3 does not make practical sense for those communities on opposite sides who do not travel to one another																																						
Alignment to major Hampshire and the Solent industries	—	H	Good alignment with Aerospace and defence (TV, Winchester and Portsmouth higher concentration), Digital technologies (Winchester aligned with North), Finance and professional dispersed throughout. Maritime alignment between New Forest and Solent																																						
Travel to Work Areas (2011 / 2021 maps)	—	M	East Hampshire better aligned to South. Winchester flows lean towards Southampton and Emsley. Strong Southampton and Emsley alignment																																						
Tax base	Council Tax base	132,455	L	174,170	190,276	306,625																																			
	Business rates total rateable value (£m)	£155.73	L	£183.33	£242.91	£338.06																																			
Sensible geography	Geographic Area (sqkm)	2,447 km ²	L	245 km ²	917 km ²	2,091 km ²																																			
Housing supply	Latest Housing delivery test measurements (2023)	98%	M	44%	76%	141%																																			
	LA and private housing stock per head	0.02	H	0.44	0.44	0.43																																			
Local needs	Level of deprivation	0.039	M	0.11	0.09	0.07																																			
	Ability to meet local rural requirements (e.g. access to services, sense of community)	—	L	Rural requirements for U3 not balanced in the context of locality and access to local services																																					

Option L

Option L	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3
	Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	Population size	Average unitary 2028 Predicted Population	661,417 (ave)	H	554,741	604,885	624,624
			Transition costs	Transition cost per head of population	3	H	3 unitaries		
			Potential financial efficiencies	Gross Central Service Costs (000s)	£31,525	L	£21,533	£35,858	£53,058
				Gross Staff costs (000s)	£55,791	H	£252,728	£286,170	£321,951
				Gross Costs of IT licenses (000s)	£2,364	H	£8,974	£9,737	£11,327
				Gross Costs of Third Party spend (000s)	£276,805	M	£451,513	£705,585	£728,118
				Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates (000s)	£218,812	L	£345,846	£362,908	£567,658
				Potential savings delivered through LGR	3	H	3 unitaries		
				Social Care Ratio	4.49%	M	91.33%	87.37%	86.84%
			Establishing firmer financial footing	Budget gap 25/27 (000s)	£46,948	L	£33,532	£33,423	£80,371
			Council debt	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	10.57%	M	6.14%	11.74%	1.17%

Option L

Option L	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3
	High quality and sustainable public services	M	Avoiding service fragmentation	Service fragmentation caused	3	H	Prior to LGR there are 3 upper-tier authorities. In this option there will be 3 new upper-tier leading to a lower level of fragmentation		
			Crucial service protection	Number of older adults in adult social care % total population	1.08%	M	5.22%	5.45%	6.30%
				Number of adults in adult social care % total population	0.22%	H	0.92%	1.05%	0.83%
				Number of children in children's social care % total population	0.34%	H	0.88%	0.83%	0.52%
				Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	0.55%	L	4.89%	5.13%	4.57%
				Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)	8.93%	M	16.73%	18.40%	10.80%
				Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	7.55%	M	16.61%	15.55%	9.06%
				Gross Environmental and regulatory services spend ('000s)	£27,313	M	£80,409	£67,286	£84,599
				Gross Highways and transport services spend ('000s)	£17,231	M	£23,161	£22,720	£39,950
				Homelessness per 1,000 households	1.75	M	2.47	0.86	0.72
				Rough sleeper count	18	H	18	28	18
				Households on housing register (or waiting list) per head of population	0.02	M	0.01	0.02	0.02
				Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 population	2.90	M	4.14	2.91	1.24

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted earlier in the session.

Option L

Option L	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3
	Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	Local identity	Sense of place, community and identity	-	L	Mismatch of communities between NF and Southampton. Potential misalignment between Winchester and the North		
				Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)	28.66%	H	0.60%	9.56%	29.06%
	Supporting devolution arrangements	L	Unlocking devolution	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment*	-	L	Potential misalignment between communities and leadership of authorities making it difficult to empower others		
			Population within a Strategic Authority	Representation within a future Combined Authority	269,883	L	654,741	604,885	824,624
	Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	L	Engagement planning	The ability to maintain effective local engagement*	-	L	3 unitaries		
			Existing engagement arrangements	Level of existing local network structures* (Town and Parish Councils)	-	H	No significant imbalances in parish representation within unitaries		
				Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSEs/CVS*	230.49	L	205	167	398

Guiding Principles

Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that inform a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries.	Sense of place and coherent identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies.	To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes.	Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission.	Sensible population ratios between local authorities and any strategic authority.	Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services.	Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes.	New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability and resilience to withstand financial shocks.
L	L	N/A	N/A	L	H	M	M

Option M




Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4	U5
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	L	Sensible economic area	Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita	£17,953	M	£28,005	£37,186	£31,082	£45,957	£34,514
			Unemployment Rates	1.74%	L	4.12%	4.62%	2.94%	3.29%	2.85%
			Gross disposable household income per head	£9,319	L	£21,130	£19,850	£26,355	£25,545	£29,269
			Transport connectivity	-	M	Fair alignment however potential issues with U5 not making practical sense for those communities.				
			Alignment to major Hampshire and the Solent industries	-	L	Lack of alignment with Aerospace and Defence, fair alignment with Digital tech relative concentration, Finance and professional services dispersed throughout. Lack of alignment across Maritime across the Solent.				
			Travel to Work Areas (2011 / 2021 maps)	-	M	East Hampshire better aligned to Havant and Portsmouth, Winchester, New Forest and Test Valley focus lean towards Southampton and Eastleigh, Strong Southampton and Eastleigh alignment with New Forest.				
		Tax base	Council Tax base	66,460	H	174,170	116,921	125,762	148,508	107,710
			Business rates total rateable value (£m)	£85.68	L	£163.33	£167.19	£146.64	£170.46	£97.87
		Sensible geography	Geographic Area (sqkm)	1,262 km2	H	245 km2	142 km2	1,403 km2	888 km2	1,175 km2
		Housing supply	Latest Housing delivery test measurements (2023)	106%	L	44%	76%	116%	148%	132%
			LA and private housing stock per head	0.04	L	0.44	0.43	0.46	0.42	0.43
		Local needs	Level of deprivation	0.047	L	0.11	0.10	0.07	0.07	0.06
			Ability to meet local rural requirements (e.g. access to services, sense of community)	-	M	Fair alignment with Rural / Urban classification across areas, West and North better aligned together with similar classification. Winchester and East Hampshire similar classification.				

Option M



Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4	U5
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	Population size	Average unitary 2028 Predicted Population	428,535 (est)	M	554,741	423,221	321,912	407,465	276,911
		Transition costs	Transition cost per head of population	-	L	5 unitaries				
		Potential financial efficiencies	Gross Central Service Costs (000s)	£15,223	M	£21,533	£27,418	£14,008	£29,231	£18,260
			Gross Staff costs (000s)	£190,683	L	£292,728	£194,884	£131,347	£160,045	£102,044
			Gross Costs of IT licenses (000s)	£5,168	L	£8,974	£7,204	£3,857	£6,097	£3,807
			Gross Costs of Third Party spend (000s)	£302,414	L	£451,513	£538,622	£298,299	£360,555	£236,208
			Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates (000s)	£180,937	M	£348,846	£233,629	£225,829	£283,198	£187,910
			Potential savings delivered through LGR	-	L	5 unitaries				
			Social Care Ratio	4.49%	M	91.33%	97.43%	88.84%	86.84%	86.84%
		Establishing firmer financial footing	Budget gap 26/27 (000s)	£25,409	H	£33,532	£16,669	£30,403	£42,078	£24,844
		Council debt	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	14.62%	M	6.14%	15.03%	2.85%	0.41%	2.87%

Option M

Option M	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4	U5
	High quality and sustainable public services	L	Avoiding service fragmentation	Service fragmentation caused	-	L	Prior to LGR there are 3 upper-tier authorities, in this option there will be 5 new upper-tier leading to a higher level of fragmentation				
				Number of older adults in adult social care % total population	1.02%	M	5.22%	5.31%	6.25%	6.21%	5.88%
				Number of adults in adult social care % total population	0.59%	L	0.92%	0.96%	1.22%	0.64%	0.96%
				Number of children in children's social care % total population	0.46%	L	0.88%	0.89%	0.70%	0.51%	0.42%
				Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	1.14%	L	4.89%	4.80%	5.38%	4.73%	4.24%
			Crucial service protection	Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)	9.49%	L	19.73%	19.78%	13.01%	10.94%	10.33%
				Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	7.87%	L	16.61%	16.69%	10.89%	9.16%	8.82%
				Gross Environmental and regulatory services spend (£000s)	£29,770	L	£80,409	£33,418	£36,924	£40,904	£30,639
				Gross Highways and transport services spend (£000s)	£20,520	L	£33,161	£15,796	£14,343	£22,890	£9,640
				Homelessness per 1,000 households	1.81	L	2.47	0.92	0.80	0.77	0.66
				Rough sleeper count	30	L	18	28	6	8	7
				Households on housing register (or waiting list) per head of population	0.02	L	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01
				Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 population	3.37	L	4.14	2.32	3.67	0.77	1.12

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted earlier in the session.

Option M

Option M	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4	U5
	Working together to understand and meet local needs	L	Local identity	Sense of place, community and identity	-	M	Winchester and East Hampshire misalignment				
				Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)	40.58%	L	0.50%	0.18%	31.45%	20.22%	40.78%
Supporting devolution arrangements	L	Unlocking devolution	Population within a Strategic Authority	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment*	-	M	U5 and U3 imbalanced compared to other anchor unitaries				
				Representation within a future Combined Authority	277,830	L	554,741	423,221	321,912	407,485	278,911
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	H	Engagement planning	Existing engagement arrangements	The ability to maintain effective local engagement*	-	H	5 unitaries				
				Level of existing local network structures* (Town and Parish Councils)	-	M	U2 is imbalanced, combining a parished council and unparished unitary together				
				Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSEs/CVS*	97	H	205	118	116	213	118

Guiding Principles

Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that inform a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries	Sense of place and coherent identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies	To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes and those which do not have boundary changes	Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission	Sensible population ratios between local authorities and any strategic authority	Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services	Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, services delivery and outcomes	New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability, and resilience to withstand financial shocks
M	M	N/A	N/A	L	L	M	M

Option D




Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff	H/M/L	U1	U2
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	M	Sensible economic area	Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita	£6,191	H	£31,926	£38,117
			Unemployment Rates	1.7%	M	4.33%	3.06%
			Gross disposable household income per head	£8,185	M	£20,626	£28,812
			Transport connectivity	-	L	Transport links are reasonable across both urban areas, although the large geographic span of U2 would limit practical connectivity. However there is the M27 motorway linking the south coast U1)	
		Alignment to major Hampshire and the Solent industries		-	L	Aerospace and defence dispersed across London (TV, Winchester and Portsmouth higher concentration). Digital technologies (Winchester aligned with North), Finance and professional dispersed throughout. Maritime dispersed between Navy Portsmouth and Solent.	
			Travel to Work Areas (2011 / 2021 maps)	-	M	East Hampshire better aligned to South. Winchester from both towards Southampton and Eastleigh. Strong Southampton and Eastleigh alignment.	
		Tax base	Council Tax base	88883	M	291062	379900
			Business rates total rateable value (£m)	£94.27	M	£350.51	£414.78
		Sensible geography	Geographic Area (sqkm)	3,081 km2	L	366 km2	3,467 km2
			Latest Housing delivery fast measurements (2023)	75/1	H	60%	135%
		Housing supply	LA and private housing stock per head	0.00	H	0.44	0.43
			Level of deprivation	0.038	H	0.10	0.07
		Local needs	Ability to meet local rural requirements (e.g. access to services, sense of community)	-	M	Urbanised areas together in U1, U2 has all rural areas but also connected to more urbanised areas (Rushmore, Basingstoke & Deane).	

Option D




Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff	H/M/L	U1	U2
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	H	Population size	Average unitary 2025 Predicted Population	992,125 (avg)	H	977,962	1,006,288
			Transition cost per head of population	-	H	2 unitaries	
		Potential financial efficiencies	Gross Central Service Costs (000s)	£12,548	M	£48,951	£81,498
			Gross Staff costs (000s)	£22,078	M	£487,412	£393,436
			Gross Costs of IT licenses (000s)	£2,517	M	£16,277	£13,791
			Gross Costs of Third Party spend (000s)	£26,073	H	£990,135	£895,052
			Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates (000s)	£114,461	H	£582,478	£606,936
			Potential savings delivered through LGR	-	H	2 unitaries	
			Social Care Ratio	2.38%	M	89.18%	85.84%
		Establishing firmer financial footing	Budget gap 26/27 (000s)	£46,924	L	£50,200	£97,125
		Council debt	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	7.54	H	9.40%	1.85%

Option D

Option D	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2
	High quality and sustainable public services	H	Avoiding service fragmentation	Service fragmentation caused	-	H	Plus to LGR there are 3 upper-tier authorities. In this option there will be 2 new upper-tier leading to a lower level of fragmentation	
			Crucial service protection	Number of older adults in adult social care % total population	0.68%	H	5.25%	5.14%
				Number of adults in adult social care % total population	0.04%	H	0.94%	0.90%
				Number of children in children's social care % total population	0.34%	H	0.88%	0.54%
				Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	0.08%	H	4.74%	4.70%
				Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)	9.36%	H	19.79%	11.39%
				Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	7.06%	H	16.65%	9.80%
				Gross Environmental and regulatory services spend (000s)	£14,640	H	£93,828	£108,467
				Gross Highways and transport services spend (000s)	£2,063	H	£48,867	£46,574
				Homelessness per 1,000 households	1.12	H	1.86	0.73
				Rough sleeper count	23	L	44	21
				Households on housing register (or waiting list) per head of population	0.06	H	0.02	0.02
				Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 population	1.57	H	3.41	1.83

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted earlier in the session.

Option D

Option D	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2
	Working together to understand and meet local needs	L	Local identity	Sense of place, community and identity	-	L	Potential mismatch of communities within U2 and between the existing unitary authority within U1	
				Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)	29.01%	M	0.36%	29.38%
	Supporting devolution arrangements	M	Unlocking devolution	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment*	-	L	The scale of this formation would not likely enable a focus on hyper-local issues and challenges that are important to residents	
			Population within a Strategic Authority	Representation within a future Combined Authority	28,325	H	977,962	1,008,288
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	L	Existing engagement arrangements	Engagement planning	The ability to maintain effective local engagement*	-	L	2 unitaries	
			Existing engagement arrangements	Level of existing local network structures* (Town and Parish Councils)	-	M	U1 is imbalanced, combining a parish council with a number of parish councils and unitary authorities	
				Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSE/CVS*	124.11	M	323	447

Guiding Principles

Analysis will be based on economic geographies, principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton. Potentially that inform a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries	Sense of place and cultural identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies	To support the other principles, actions considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes	Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission	Sensible population ratios between local authorities and any strategic authority	Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services	Proposals will show how new authorities will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes	New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability and resilience to withstand financial shocks
L	L	NA	NA	H	H	M	H

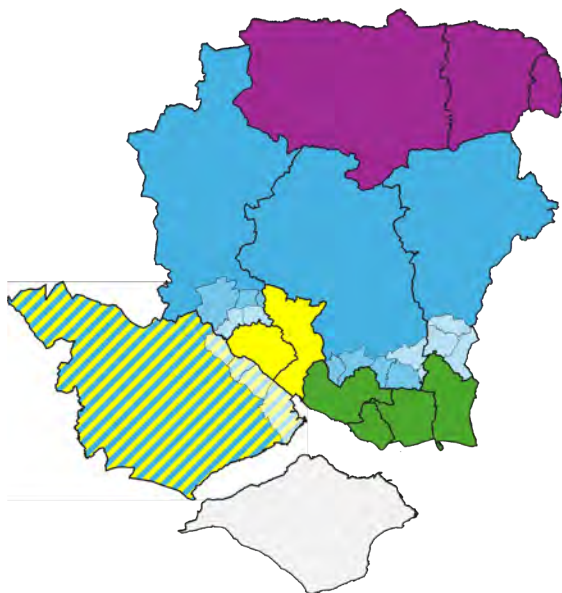
- Step 3 and 4 consolidated the information from Step 2 into a dashboard as seen below. The dashboards were produced to show how they assessed alongside both the government criteria, and the guiding principles agreed as part of the Interim proposal.

Government Criteria	Options							
	D	E	H (1)	I (2)	J	K	L	M
Establishing a single tier of local government	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	H	M	M	M	M	H	M	L
High quality and sustainable public services	H	M	M	L	M	M	M	L
Working together to understand and meet local needs	L	M	M	L	H	M	M	L
Supporting devolution arrangements	M	H	H	M	M	L	L	L
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	L	L	M	H	L	L	L	H

Principles	Assessment for H / M / L	Options							
		D	E	H (1)	J (2)	K	L	M	
Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that inform a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High: Each of the 4 principle economic areas are spread through different unitaries Medium: There is a unitary with no principle economic areas Low: If 2 principle economic areas exist in the same unitary 	L	H	H	H	L	L	M	
Sense of place and coherent identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies	High, Medium and Low calculated across the following metrics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Connectivity, TTW, Rural Requirements, sense of place, proportion of population in rural output areas, strength of leadership 	L	M	H	M	H	L	L	M
To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes	N/A as for this stage of evaluation we are using existing boundaries as building blocks	N/A							
Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission	N/A as for this stage of evaluation we are using existing boundaries as building blocks	N/A							
Sensible population ratios between local authorities and any strategic authority	High, Medium and Low calculated across the following metrics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation in a future combined authority 	H	H	M	M	L	M	L	L
Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services	High, Medium and Low calculated by using the overarching government criteria for high quality and sustainable public services	H	M	M	M	M	H	H	L
Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes	High, Medium and Low calculated by using the overarching government criteria for establishing a single tier of local government	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability, and resilience to withstand financial shocks	High, Medium and Low calculated by using the overarching government criteria for efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	H	M	M	M	M	H	M	M

Detailed options analysis process: Leaders' Options Appraisal (May 2025)

- The above material was presented in a workshop to Leaders and Chief Executives to agree on the options to proceed with. Several key arguments were highlighted in favour of progressing with a four new mainland and Isle of Wight unitary model:
 - Larger unitary authorities may struggle to meet local needs, as the nuances of local areas could be lost.
 - A four new mainland unitary model creates a more balanced tax base (comprising council tax base and business rates total rateable value).
 - A four new mainland unitary model ensures relative balance in the future combined authority, allowing each representative council to have equal representation. All unitaries in this model would have a population between 400,000 and 600,000 (excluding the Isle of Wight), whereas a three new mainland unitary model would include unitaries with populations potentially exceeding 800,000.
- There was majority agreement to progress options 1 and 2 after being viewed favourably in the appraisal by Leaders and Chief Executives. The two options were agreed to be progressed, as well as a third option that includes boundary changes, particularly focusing on the New Forest and other city hinterlands around Portsmouth and Southampton that are currently within a district building block. The image and table below details the potential boundary changes across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.



Options			Tier	Existing Council	Parishes	Unitary to include
BC3	BC2	BC1	1	New Forest	Totton & Eling, Marchwood, Hythe & Dibden and Fawley	Southampton/Eastleigh
				Test Valley	Nursling & Rownhams and Chilworth	Southampton/Eastleigh
				Winchester	Denmead and Newlands	Fareham/Portsmouth/Gosport/Havant
				East Hampshire	Horndean , Clanfield and Rowlands Castle	Fareham/Portsmouth/Gosport/Havant
			2	Test Valley	Valley Park and North Baddesley	Southampton/Eastleigh
				Winchester	Boarhunt, Southwick & Widley, Wickham & Knowle and Whiteley	Fareham/Portsmouth/Gosport/Havant
			3	Test Valley	Romsey	Southampton/Eastleigh
				Fareham*	Sarisbury & Whiteley, Park Gate and Locks Heath	Southampton/Eastleigh

*Fareham is unparished; wards will be used to define boundaries

Boundary change modelling (June 2025)

- A session was held with council Chief Executives at the end of June to agree the boundary change option to be progressed as part of the final proposal. The three boundary change options can be found in the section above.
- The same process was applied, in terms of applying 'High', 'Medium' and 'Low' parameters at an option, metric and guiding principles level. The outputs from this exercise can be seen below. For the purposes of this proposal, BC1 is now referred to as Option 3.

The images below provide a breakdown of metric analysis across each boundary change option.

Option BC 1

Option BC 1

Tier 1 Boundary Changes



Government criteria and guiding principles scoring overview

Establishing a single tier of local government	M	1	H
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	2	M
High quality and sustainable public services	M	3	N/A
Working together to understand and meet local needs	H	4	N/A
Supporting devolution arrangements	H	5	H
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	M	6	M
		7	M
		8	M

Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Establishing a single tier of Local Government	M	Sensible economic area	Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita*	£16,452	L	£32,035	£45,957	£38,034	£27,505
			Unemployment Rates	1.38%	M	3.09%	3.29%	4.48%	4.06%
			Gross disposable household income per head	£7,647	L	£28,944	£25,546	£21,297	£21,592
			Transport connectivity	-	H	Good transport connectivity alignment. Arguably parts of U1 East Hampshire face North / into London			
			Alignment to major Hampshire and the Solent industries	-	H	Good alignment to Defence and Aerospace, partial alignment to Digital tech, fair alignment to Finance and Tourism and Professional (although evenly dispersed)			
			Travel to Work Areas (2011 / 2021 maps)	-	H	East Hampshire better aligned to Havant and Portsmouth, Winchester, New Forest and Test Valley flows lean towards Southampton and Eastleigh. Strong Southampton and Eastleigh alignment, as well as U1 areas			
		Tax base	Council Tax base	84058	L	193318	109261	144123	187122
			Business rates total rateable value (£m)	£218.10	M	£491.05	£422.51	£277.30	£495.40
		Sensible geography	Geographic Area (sqkm)	2,191 km2	L	2,404 km2	888 km2	212 km2	265 km2
			Latest Housing delivery test measurements (2023)	99	M	130%	148%	77%	49%
		Housing supply	Council owned dwelling stock per head	38.76	L	18.24	0.45	39.21	30.84
			Level of deprivation*	0.025	M	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.09
		Local needs	Ability to meet local rural requirements (e.g. access to services, sense of community)	-	H	Strong alignment with Rural / Urban classification across areas			

*In this Boundary Change Option, Newlands is not represented in the source data, so population data apportionment (GVA) and Winchester deprivation average have been used
Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted in the previous section.

Option BC 1

Option BC 1	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
<u>Tier 1 Boundary Changes</u>	Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	Population size	Average unitary 2028 Predicted Population	-486,093	M	484,836	407,465	502,273	589,876
			Transition costs	Transition cost per head of population	-	M	4 unitaries			
			Potential financial efficiencies	Gross Central Service Costs (000s)	£7,014	M	£28,157	£29,231	£31,038	£24,024
				Gross Staff costs (000s)	£145,815	M	£188,890	£190,045	£228,053	£305,860
				Gross Costs of IT licenses (000s)	£3,337	M	£6,170	£5,097	£3,337	£9,434
				Gross Costs of Third Party spend (000s)	£290,851	M	£431,216	£360,585	£611,407	£482,019
				Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates (000s)	£89,507	M	£333,808	£263,198	£289,793	£372,705
				Potential savings delivered through LGR	-	M	4 unitaries			
				Social Care Ratio	-4.56%	M	90.10%	86.64%	91.40%	91.20%
			Establishing firmer financial footing	Budget gap 26/27 (000s)	£20,584	L	£44,563	£42,078	£23,999	£38,985
			Council debt	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	12.81%	L	2.59%	0.41%	13.22%	5.99%

Option BC 1

Option BC 1	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
<u>Tier 1 Boundary Changes</u>	High quality and sustainable public services	M	Avoiding service fragmentation	Service fragmentation caused	-	M	Prior to LGR there are 3 upper-tier authorities, in this option there will be 4 new upper-tier leading to a lower level of fragmentation			
			Crucial service protection	<i>Number of older adults in adult social care % total population</i>	1.91%	L	6.23%	6.21%	5.42%	5.22%
				<i>Number of adults in adult social care % total population</i>	0.46%	L	1.00%	0.64%	1.00%	0.92%
				<i>Number of children in children's social care % total population</i>	0.36%	M	0.56%	0.51%	0.55%	0.55%
				<i>Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population</i>	0.28%	M	4.73%	4.73%	4.95%	4.67%
				<i>Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)</i>	8.25%	M	11.45%	10.94%	10.01%	10.10%
				<i>Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)</i>	7.30%	M	9.65%	9.16%	10.34%	10.10%
				Gross Environmental and regulatory services spend (000s)	£23,340	M	£53,643	£40,904	£43,504	£64,244
				Gross Highways and transport services spend (000s)	£15,516	H	£19,574	£22,890	£18,925	£34,442
				<i>Homelessness per 1,000 households</i>	1.87	M	0.70	0.77	0.89	2.37
				<i>Rough sleeper count</i>	19	M	11	8	27	19
				<i>Households on housing register (or waiting list) per head of population</i>	0.02	L	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.01
				<i>Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 population</i>	3.21	M	2.34	0.77	2.82	3.98

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted in the previous section.

Option BC 1

Option BC 1	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
<i>Tier 1 Boundary Changes</i>	Working together to understand and meet local needs	H	Local identity	Sense of place, community and identity <i>Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)</i>	- 36.09%	H M	36.25%	20.22%	0.16%	0.48%
Supporting devolution arrangements	H	Unlocking devolution	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment*	-	H					
		Population within a Strategic Authority	Representation within a future Combined Authority	132,411	H	454,636	407,465	502,273	389,876	
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	M	Engagement planning	The ability to maintain effective local engagement	-	M		4 unitarics			
		Existing engagement arrangements	Level of existing local network structures* (Town and Parish Councils)	-	M		U3 is imbalanced, combining a parish council and unparished unitary together			
			Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSEs/CVS*	78	M	197	213	141	220	

Guiding Principles

Metrics highlighted in **bold/italics** have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted in the previous section.

Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that inform a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitarics	Sense of place and coherent identity, attitude and local connections will shape geographies	To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes	Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission	Sensible population (ratio between local authorities and any strategic authority)	Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services	Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes	How proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability, and resilience to withstood financial shocks
H	M	N/A	N/A	H	M	M	M

Option BC 2

Option BC 2	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
<i>Tier 1 & 2 boundary changes</i>				<i>Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita</i>	£17,580	H	£29,378	£45,957	£37,196	£28,377
				<i>Unemployment Rates</i>	1.30%	M	3.13%	3.29%	4.43%	3.98%
				Gross disposable household income per head	£7,436	M	£28,944	£28,546	£21,508	£22,147
				Transport connectivity	-	H				
				Alignment to major Hampshire and the Solent industries	-	H				
				Travel to Work Areas (2011 / 2021 maps)	-	H				
				Council Tax base	83434	M	182161	109261	140717	192695
				Business rates total rateable value (£m)	£250.46	L	£449.06	£422.51	£282.11	£532.57
				<i>Geographic Area (sqkm)</i>	2,162 km ²	M	2,382 km ²	888 km ²	200 km ²	299 km ²
				Latest Housing delivery test measurements (2023)	66,796	M	120%	148%	79%	62%
				<i>Council owned dwelling stock per head</i>	37.57	M	18.48	0.45	38.82	29.09
				<i>Level of deprivation</i>	-0.025	M	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.09
				Ability to meet local rural requirements (e.g. access to services, sense of community)	-	H				
							Strong alignment with Rural / Urban classification across areas			

Metrics highlighted in **bold/italics** have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted in the previous section.

Government criteria and guiding principles scoring overview		
Establishing a single tier of local government	M	1
Efficiency, capacity and value for money	M	2
High quality and sustainable public services	M	3
Working together to understand and meet local needs	H	4
Supporting devolution arrangements	M	5
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	L	6

Option BC 2

Option BC 2	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
<u>Tier 1 & 2 boundary changes</u>	Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	Population size	Average unitary 2028 Predicted Population	595,740	H	459,420	407,455	517,854	638,422
			Transition costs	Transition cost per head of population	-	M	4 unitaries			
			Potential financial efficiencies	Gross Central Service Costs (000s)	£5,635	H	£25,013	£29,231	£31,648	£26,655
				Gross Staff costs (000s)	£163,101	L	£176,823	£160,045	£232,619	£323,145
				Gross Costs of IT licenses (000s)	£4,312	L	£5,864	£6,097	£8,493	£10,178
				Gross Costs of Third Party spend (000s)	£265,257	M	£408,776	£360,595	£625,812	£521,679
				Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates (000s)	£122,397	L	£316,555	£283,198	£300,292	£405,595
				Potential savings delivered through LGR	-	M	4 unitaries			
				Social Care Ratio	5.08%	L	92.89%	86.84%	90.69%	91.09%
			Establishing firmer financial footing	Budget gap 26/27 (000s)	£16,719	M	£42,215	£42,078	£25,496	£40,965
			Council debt	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	12.42%	M	2.61%	0.41%	12.83%	5.88%

Option BC 2

Option BC 2	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
<u>Tier 1 & 2 boundary changes</u>	High quality and sustainable public services	M	Avoiding service fragmentation	Service fragmentation caused	-	M	Prior to LGR there are 3 upper-tier authorities, in this option there will be 4 new upper-tier leading to a lower level of fragmentation			
			Crucial service protection	Number of older adults in adult social care % total population	0.80%	M	6.17%	6.21%	5.49%	5.41%
				Number of adults in adult social care % total population	0.45%	M	1.09%	0.84%	1.01%	0.94%
				Number of children in children's social care % total population	0.34%	M	0.56%	0.51%	0.85%	0.81%
				Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	0.32%	L	4.74%	4.73%	4.94%	4.82%
				Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)	7.62%	H	11.50%	10.94%	18.76%	18.46%
				Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	6.67%	M	9.70%	9.16%	15.83%	15.59%
				Gross Environmental and regulatory services spend (000s)	£20,884	L	£51,088	£40,904	£44,938	£69,789
				Gross Highways and transport services spend (000s)	£17,487	L	£18,466	£22,890	£19,739	£35,943
				Homelessness per 1,000 households	1.56	H	0.70	0.77	0.89	2.28
				Rough sleeper count	19	M	10	8	27	20
				Households on housing register (or waiting list) per head of population	0.02	M	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
				Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 population	3.02	H	2.34	0.77	2.62	3.79

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted in the previous section.

Option BC 2

Option BC 2	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
<i>Tier 1 & 2 boundary changes</i>	Working together to understand and meet local needs	H	Local identity	Sense of place, community and identity	-	H	Boundaries reflect established communities and resident sense of place			
				<i>Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)</i>	36.03%	M	36.28%	20.22%	0.17%	8.49%
	Supporting devolution arrangements	M	Unlocking devolution	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment*	-	H	Sense of place and community would be a good indicator of local leadership and community empowerment, although discussion would be required as to the community aspect regarding East Hampshire			
			Population within a Strategic Authority	Representation within a future Combined Authority	230,957	L	459,420	407,485	517,654	638,422
	Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	L	Engagement planning	The ability to maintain effective local engagement	-	M	4 unitaries			
			Existing engagement arrangements	Level of existing local network structures* (Towns and Parish Councils)	-	M	U3 is imbalanced, combining a parish council and unparished unitary together			
				Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSES/CVS*	93	L	185	213	149	241

Guiding Principles

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted in the previous section.

Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton), Portsmouth that inform a sense of place, community and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries	Sense of place and coherent identity structures and local connections will shape geographies	To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes	Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission	Sensible population (link between local authorities and any strategic authority)	Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services	Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes	New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability, and resilience to withstand financial shocks
H	M	N/A	N/A	L	M	M	M

Option BC 3

Option BC 3	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
<i>Tier 1, 2 & 3 boundary changes</i>				<i>Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita</i>	£17,801	M	£28,962	£45,567	£37,148	£28,167
				<i>Unemployment Rates</i>	1.18%	H	3.16%	3.29%	4.34%	4.22%
				Gross disposable household income per head	£5,549	H	£28,544	£25,540	£21,995	£22,651
			Sensible economic area	Transport connectivity		H	Good transport connectivity alignment. Arguably parts of U1 East Hampshire face North / into London			
				Alignment to major Hampshire and the Solent industries		H	Good alignment to Defence and Aerospace, partial alignment to Digital tech, fair alignment to Finance and Tourism and Professional (although overly dispersed)			
				Travel to Work Areas (2011 / 2021 maps)		H	East Hampshire better aligned to Havant and Portsmouth, Winchester, New Forest and Test Valley than towards Southampton and Eastleigh, Strong Southampton and Eastleigh alignment, as well as U1 area			
			Tax base	Council Tax base	72530	H	172771	106261	166051	181791
				Business rates total rateable value (£m)	£186.06	M	£425.57	£422.51	£325.56	£511.62
			Sensible geography	<i>Geographic Area (sqkm)</i>	2,117 km2	M	2,355 km2	883 km2	239 km2	287 km2
			Housing supply	Latest Housing delivery test measurements (2023)	56,826	H	128%	148%	88%	62%
				<i>Council owned dwelling stock per head</i>	35.71	H	19.12	0.45	36.16	29.44
			Local needs	<i>Level of deprivation</i>	0.025	M	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.08
				Ability to meet local rural requirements (e.g. access to services, sense of community)		H	Strong alignment with Rural / Urban classification across areas			


Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted in the previous section.

Government criteria and guiding principles scoring overview			
Establishing a single tier of local government	H	1	H
Efficiency, economy and effective use of resources	M	2	M
High quality and sustainable public services	M	3	N/A
Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	4	N/A
Supporting devolution arrangements	M	5	-
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	M	6	M
		7	H
		8	M

Option BC 3

Option BC 3		Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4			
Tier 1, 2 & 3 boundary changes		Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	Population size	Average unitary 2028 Predicted Population	905,740	H	443,800	407,469	599,287	612,409			
				Transition costs	Transition cost per head of population	-	M	4 unitaries						
				Potential financial efficiencies	Gross Central Service Costs (000s)	£9,150	M	£24,393	£29,231	£33,543	£25,380			
					Gross Staff costs (000s)	£191,968	L	£172,196	£160,045	£250,388	£312,043			
					Gross Costs of IT licenses (000s)	£4,074	M	£5,705	£8,097	£9,049	£9,779			
					Gross Costs of Third Party spend (000s)	£302,068	L	£384,146	£360,655	£663,524	£498,598			
					Gross Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates (000s)	£104,833	M	£305,601	£283,196	£328,610	£388,030			
					Potential savings delivered through LGR	-	M	4 unitaries						
					Social Care Ratio	9.96%	L	95.82%	86.84%	91.16%	95.83%			
				Establishing firmer financial footing	Budget gap 26/27 (000s)	£12,757	M	£40,655	£42,078	£29,321	£38,661			
				Council debt	Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream %	11.89%	M	2.69%	0.41%	12.11%	5.89%			

Option BC 3

Option BC 3		Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	Diff.	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
Tier 1, 2 & 3 boundary changes		High quality and sustainable public services	M	Avoiding service fragmentation	Service fragmentation caused	-	M	Prior to LGR there are 3 upper-tier authorities. In this option there will be 4 new upper-tier leading to a lower level of fragmentation			
				Crucial service protection	Number of older adults in adult social care % total population	0.75%	H	8.13%	6.21%	5.46%	5.46%
					Number of adults in adult social care % total population	0.46%	M	1.08%	0.64%	1.01%	0.94%
					Number of children in children's social care % total population	0.32%	H	0.95%	0.51%	0.83%	0.83%
					Number of registered pupils with SEND as % total population	0.27%	M	4.74%	4.73%	4.91%	4.84%
					Proportion of children in relative low-income families (under 16s)	7.53%	M	11.30%	10.94%	18.19%	18.77%
					Proportion of children in absolute low-income families (under 16s)	6.85%	H	9.72%	9.16%	15.34%	16.82%
					Gross Environmental and regulatory services spend (000s)	£26,586	M	£49,634	£40,904	£48,889	£67,490
					Gross Highways and transport services spend (000s)	£17,221	M	£17,629	£22,890	£21,859	£34,850
					Homelessness per 1,000 households	1.62	M	0.69	0.77	0.90	2.31
					Rough sleeper count	21	L	10	8	28	20
					Households on housing register (or waiting list) per head of population	0.02	M	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
					Numbers of households in TA per 1,000 population	9.06	M	2.33	0.77	2.65	3.82

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted in the previous section.

Option BC 3

Option BC 3	Government criteria	Criteria H/M/L	Assessment Factor	Metric	DfW	H/M/L	U1	U2	U3	U4
<i>Tier 1, 2 & 3 boundary changes</i>	Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	Local identity	Sense of place, community and identity	-	H	Boundaries reflect established communities and resident sense of place			
				<i>Proportion of population in rural Output areas (%)</i>	36.18%	L	36.34%	20.22%	0.16%	0.46%
	Supporting devolution arrangements	M	Unlocking devolution	Strength of local leadership and community empowerment*	-	H	Sense of place and community would be a good indicator of local leadership and community empowerment, although discussion would be required as to the community aspect regarding East Hampshire			
			Population within a Strategic Authority	Representation within a future Combined Authority	204,944	L	443,800	407,465	559,267	612,409
	Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	M	Engagement planning	The ability to maintain effective local engagement	-	M	4 unitaries			
			Existing engagement arrangements	Level of existing local network structures* (Town and Parish Councils)	-	M	U3 is imbalanced, combining a parished council and unparished unitary together			
				Level of existing community networks e.g. health, wellbeing and VCSEs/CVS*	58	M	177	213	169	228

Guiding Principles

Metrics highlighted in bold/italics have a minimal difference between HML as highlighted in the previous section.

Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that inform a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries	Sense of place and coherent identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies	To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes	Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission	Sensible population ratios between local authorities and any strategic authority	Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services	Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes	New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability, and resilience to withstand financial shocks
M	M	N/A	N/A	L	M	H	M

- The boundary change options were assessed against the options taken forward as part of the May Leaders' session (H & I/Options 1 and 2). When assessing BC1-3 in our analysis against options H and I, the arrows indicate where BC options performed favourably or not. The analysis showed strong performance for BC1 when compared with options H and I.

The tables below show how each of the boundary change options have been assessed against options H and I, government criteria and the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight guiding principles.

Government Criteria	Options							
	H (1)	I (2)	BC1 (3)		BC2		BC3	
			Vs H	Vs I	Vs H	Vs I	Vs H	Vs I
Establishing a single tier of local government	M	M	-	-	-	-	↑	↑
Efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	M	-	-	-	-	-	-
High quality and sustainable public services	M	L	-	↑	-	↑	-	↑
Working together to understand and meet local needs	M	L	↑	↑	↑	↑	-	↑
Supporting devolution arrangements	H	M	-	↑	↓	-	↓	-
Stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment	M	H	-	↓	↓	↓	-	↓

Principles	Assessment for H / M / L					
		H (1)	I (2)	BC1 (3)	BC2	BC3
Analysis will be based on economic geographies (principally Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth) that inform a sense of place, community, and economic growth. No decision has been made on the number of unitaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High: Each of the 4 principle economic areas are spread through different unitaries Medium: There is a unitary with no principle economic areas Low: If 2 principle economic areas exist in the same unitary 	H	H	H	H	H
Sense of place and coherent identity, structure and local connections will shape geographies	High, Medium and Low calculated across the following metrics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Connectivity, TTW, Rural Requirements, sense of place, proportion of population in rural output areas, strength of leadership 	M	M	M	M	M
To support the other principles, options considered will include those which have boundary changes, and those which do not have boundary changes	N/A as this principle covers the current process of boundary change appraisal as a whole and cannot be used to differentiate individual options	N/A				
Community engagement will be used to help shape final boundaries, prior to final submission	N/A as for this stage of evaluation community engagement has not commenced	N/A				
Sensible population ratios between local authorities and any strategic authority	High, Medium and Low calculated across the following metrics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation in a future combined authority 	M	M	H	L	L
Consideration will be given to the impact on crucial services	High, Medium and Low calculated by using the overarching government criteria for high quality and sustainable public services	L	L	M	M	M
Proposals will show how new structures will improve local government, service delivery and outcomes	High, Medium and Low calculated by using the overarching government criteria for establishing a single tier of local government	L	M	M	M	H
New proposed authorities must also be able to form a platform for financial sustainability, and resilience to withstand financial shocks	High, Medium and Low calculated by using the overarching government criteria for efficiency, capacity and withstanding shocks	M	M	M	M	M

Resident feedback and case for change (June to September 2025)

Due to the complexity of boundary change modelling and the requirement to understand resident views, as part of the resident engagement activity, a survey 'Our Place Our Future' was launched. The series of images below show the questions that were asked as part of this survey. The findings of this survey can also be found in Appendix 8: engagement report.

1. How old are you?

Select one option

- ☐ 15 or under
- ☐ 16-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75-84
- ☐ 85 or older
- ☐ Prefer not to say

2. What is your connection to the area? By area we mean the region of Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. Please select all that apply to you currently.

Select one or more options

- ☐ I live in the area
- ☐ I work in the area
- ☐ I study in the area
- ☐ I have a business in the area
- ☐ I work for a council in the area
- ☐ I am an elected representative

3. What year did you move to your local area? If you're not sure, please give us your best estimate.

Write your answer in the box below

4. Or

Select one option

- ☐ I have lived here my whole life
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ I do not live in the region of Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight

5. What is your postcode?

Write your answer in the box below

6. Which is your local council?

Select one option

- ☐ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
- ☐ Eastleigh Borough Council
- ☐ Fareham Borough Council
- ☐ Hart District Council
- ☐ Havant Borough Council
- ☐ Isle of Wight Council
- ☐ New Forest District Council
- ☐ Portsmouth City Council
- ☐ Rushmoor Borough Council
- ☐ Southampton City Council
- ☐ Test Valley Borough Council
- ☐ Winchester City Council
- ☐ None of the above

8. Thinking about Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight, tell us the area you think of as your 'local area'.

Write your response in the box below

10. We would like to hear more about the places you go. Tell us where you go for work or education. It doesn't need to be exact, just the general area.

Write your response in the box below

12. Tell us where you access services or run errands (e.g. shopping, going to the library, going to the GP, hospital visits) in or near the area.

Write your response in the box below

14. Tell us where you spend time to relax, exercise or socialise (this could be indoors or outdoors).

Write your response in the box below

15. We want to understand how people feel about the area they live in. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Select one option per row

	Strongly disagree	Tend to disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
I feel connected to my local community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel proud to say I live in my local area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are plenty of things to do in my local area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My area has a strong local identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local area is a nice place to spend time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your local area?

Select one option per row.

	Don't know / I don't use this	Very dissatisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Neutral	Quite satisfied	Very satisfied
Well located and connected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to parks and green spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordability of housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good local schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to shopping and services (banks, restaurants, supermarkets)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health facilities (GPs, pharmacists)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment, arts and cultural facilities (e.g. cinema, theatres, galleries)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports and exercise facilities (e.g. gym, swimming)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quietness and peacefulness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good work opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to community centres / village halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. How important is it to you that your council...

Select one option per row

	Very important	Quite important	Neutral	Quite unimportant	Very unimportant	Don't know
Delivers high-quality services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Works to support a thriving local community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supports local businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Represents local voices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes residents in decision-making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. What do you like most about your local area?

Write your response in the box below

19. What do you dislike most?

Write your response in the box below

Our Place Our Future - Section 2

Your response will be uploaded to <https://ourplaceourfuture.commonplace.is/>. Please do not mention any names or other personal information.

1. In the future, what would you like your council to prioritise?

Number each option in order of priority, with 1 being the highest

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| <input type="text"/> | Ensuring people have access to the care services they need |
| <input type="text"/> | Offering housing services |
| <input type="text"/> | Supporting businesses and encouraging economic development |
| <input type="text"/> | Providing planning and building services |
| <input type="text"/> | Providing waste and recycling services |
| <input type="text"/> | Keeping the area clean and tidy |
| <input type="text"/> | Maintaining roads |
| <input type="text"/> | Providing public transport routes |
| <input type="text"/> | Providing parks and leisure facilities |
| <input type="text"/> | Providing good quality education and learning services |

2. What one thing would you like your council to focus on the most? Please be as specific as possible and explain your answer.

Write your response in the box below

Our Place Our Future - Section 3

Your response will be uploaded to <https://ourplaceourfuture.commonplace.is/>. Please do not mention any names or other personal information.

1. Here are some statements about local decision-making. Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the statements.

Select one option per row

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
It is important that my council reflects the identity of my local community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decisions about my local area should be made near my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decisions about my local area should be considered alongside other areas in the region	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local voices should have the strongest influence in decision making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Before taking part in this survey, did you hear about the government's plans to reorganise the councils in Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight?

Select one option

- ☐ Yes, I have heard about it and understand what it involves
- ☐ Yes, I have heard about it but not sure what it involves
- ☐ No, I knew nothing about it before now

3. What do you like about option 1?

Write your response in the box below

4. What do you dislike about option 1?

Write your response in the box below

5. How do you feel option 1 might impact the way you use services locally?

Write your response in the box below

6. How do you feel option 1 might impact the way that decisions are made in your local area?

Write your response in the box below

7. How do you feel option 1 might impact the way that you engage with local decision-making?

Write your response in the box below

8. What do you like about option 2?

Write your response in the box below

9. What do you dislike about option 2?

Write your response in the box below

10. How do you feel option 2 might impact the way you use services locally?

Write your response in the box below

11. How do you feel option 2 might impact the way that decisions are made in your local area?

Write your response in the box below

12. How do you feel option 2 might impact the way that you engage with local decision-making?

Write your response in the box below

13. What do you like about option 3?

Write your response in the box below

14. What do you dislike about option 3?

Write your response in the box below

15. How do you feel option 3 might impact the way you use services locally?

Write your response in the box below

16. How do you feel option 3 might impact the way that decisions are made in your local area?

Write your response in the box below

17. How do you feel option 3 might impact the way that you engage with local decision-making?

Write your response in the box below

As shown in option 3, only some areas (shown in orange) would be affected by boundary changes. If the boundaries were to change in your area as set-out in option 3 what questions would you have?

Write your response in the box below

19. What would you want the councils to consider?

Write your response in the box below

20. To what extent do you support or oppose each of these options

Select one option per row

	Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neutral	Support	Strongly support	Don't know
Option 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. Is there anything else you would like to share about the proposed changes?

Write your response in the box below

- Following some further analysis and targeted resident engagement it was agreed by council Leaders that a single boundary change option (Option 3) would be developed and submitted as one of the three options in this proposal, based on the four mainland and Isle of Wight unitary foundation. The details of the boundary changes for Option 3 are outlined below.

Existing Council	Parishes	Moving to unitary configuration
New Forest	Totton & Eling, Marchwood, Hythe & Dibden and Fawley	Southampton/Eastleigh (South West)
Test Valley	Valley Park, Nursling & Rownhams and Chilworth	Southampton/Eastleigh (South West)
Winchester	Newlands	Fareham/Portsmouth/Gosport/Havant (South East)
East Hampshire	Horndean, Clanfield and Rowlands Castle	Fareham/Portsmouth/Gosport/Havant (South East)

- The final step in determining the support for each option was a preferencing session with Leaders to understand which councils supported which option. The following table outlines the support from councils against each of the options.

Outline of the three option variations of the four new mainland and Isle of Wight unitary model

Option 1



Option 2



Option 3



North Hampshire: Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor	407,465	North Hampshire: Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor	407,465	North Hampshire: Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor	407,465
Mid Hampshire: East Hampshire, New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester	598,823	Mid Hampshire: East Hampshire, Test Valley, Winchester	417,159	Mid Hampshire: East Hampshire, New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester	484,546
South West Hampshire: Eastleigh, Southampton	423,221	South West Hampshire: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton	604,885	South West Hampshire: Eastleigh, New Forest*, Southampton, Test Valley*	510,102
South East Hampshire: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth	554,741	South East Hampshire: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth	554,741	South East Hampshire: East Hampshire*, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth, Winchester*	582,137
Isle of Wight	146,351	Isle of Wight	146,351	Isle of Wight	146,351

East Hampshire*: Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle
New Forest*: Totton & Eling, Marchwood, Hythe & Dibden and Fawley
Test Valley*: Valley Park, Nursling & Rownhams and Chilworth
Winchester*: Newlands

Modelling assumptions

The following assumptions were made when conducting the detailed options appraisal:

Disaggregation of county council figures

- There were some instances when county council data is Hampshire wide. Where this is the case, the data was disaggregated by district council population (these are predominantly financial metrics e.g. central service costs, staff costs and highways spend).

Assessment at an option level

- The assessment followed process whereby having balanced unitaries within an option is below the 33-percentile therefore scores highly. Creating an imbalance whereby a minority of unitaries has disproportionately positive or negative figures could lead to one unitary area of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight having much greater or worse outcomes than the others and therefore will score Low at an option level.
- At the moment in time when options appraisal was performed, we had not fully assessed the financial sustainability of any individual unitary in any of the options. As per the above, analysis had been conducted based on balance and a full financial model has since been developed for options progressed to a full case.

Generating H/M/L scores for metrics based on difference

- To generate a High, Medium or Low score, the following process was applied:
 - For each option, the difference between the lowest and highest unitary figures was identified.
 - The range of differences across options were then split into percentiles which were then used to determine High, Medium and Low scores, whereby Low is anything that is within a 66+ percentile difference, High is anything below a 33-percentile difference and Medium is anything between High and Low.

Additional boundary change options assumptions

- **Options Comparison:** Only options included in this appraisal (Options H, I and BC 1, 2 & 3) have been scored. As HML criteria are based on percentile ranges between options, scores were different to the previous Options appraisal which included different options; direct comparisons to the previous appraisal scores cannot be made.
- **Data Apportionment:** As noted in the data audit section of this report, any data where a new data source was not agreed has been apportioned based on Parish population percentages.

- **Data mapping:** Multiple resolutions of data (Parish, Ward, 2011 & 2021 LSOAs) was used for new boundary change data sources. 2021 LSOAs have been visually mapped to Parish Boundaries using ONS data, and 2011 LSOAs matched to 2021 LSOA boundaries using ONS records. These boundaries do not perfectly align with Parish boundaries; as such, new data sources are the greatest resolution approximation of Parish boundaries.

Option variation appendices

Our proposal for a four new mainland unitary configuration, with the Isle of Wight remaining an existing unitary authority, has been unanimously supported by all 12 councils working together as part of a collaborative process. This support has been achieved through a robust and evidence-based process, with all 12 councils committed to making informed decisions based on data, public feedback and financial case, and a clear rationale outlined in the main body of the case as to why our four new mainland and Isle of Wight unitary proposal provides the best platform to unlock and sustain positive outcomes for our citizens.

Our four new mainland and Isle of Wight unitary proposal not only benefits our citizens but also positively impacts all stakeholders, including businesses and partner organisations. It strongly aligns with government criteria and priorities, the LGOF, and the broader public sector reform agenda. To summarise, our proposal:

1. Aligns structures with economic geographies

- Aligns with the four major economic and population centres: Basingstoke, Winchester, Portsmouth, and Southampton.
- Reflects how people live, work, and travel, supporting integrated transport, housing, and economic planning.
- Enables tailored strategies for growth, infrastructure, and skills development in each area.

2. Builds financially sustainable and efficient structures

- All three variations of our proposal (Options 1, 2 and 3) are financially viable with payback within 2.2-3.1 years.
- By Year 3, the reorganisation is projected to deliver annual recurring savings of £81.8 million in the Base Case and £111.5 million in the High Case across options 1, 2 and 3.

3. Improves public services

- Enables place-based service delivery tailored to local needs.
- Supports prevention-first models in adult and children's social care.
- Enhances integration with NHS and voluntary sector partners.
- Maintains strong local relationships that large "mega-unitaries" would dilute.

4. Promotes community identity and engagement

- Respects and preserves distinct local identities and geographies.
- Empowers neighbourhoods through local governance models and enhanced councillor representation.
- Avoids the democratic deficit and service detachment associated with larger, mass-aggregated councils.

5. Supports Devolution and Combined Authority Model

- Provides a balanced structure for a future MCA.
- Ensures equitable representation and avoids dominance by any single authority.
- Facilitates strategic planning at the regional level while maintaining local delivery.

There are variations whereby councils have differing views on the configuration of certain future unitaries, principally relating to the New Forest. As a commitment to remaining part of a jointly collaborative process, all 12 councils agreed to the process through which these variations would be presented in this case. Councils supporting each option have worked together, as well as remaining part of the main group supporting the four new mainland and Isle of Wight unitary model, to draft the arguments for their preferred variation. To ensure fairness, several principles and a defined structure were agreed upon before drafting began.

The following councils have supported the development of the three options presented in this appendix:

Option 1 – Appendix 2	Option 2 – Appendix 3	Option 3 – Appendix 4

The following appendices outline the differences between each option, particularly regarding the position of New Forest (either wholly or partially through a boundary change). As each of the three options include a North Hampshire Unitary Council on the same boundary, the arguments and rationale for this is included in the main document and this is supported by all councils, and so this is not repeated in the three appendices on the different variations.