



DALC Conference

**LGR Update:
Pause, Play, Skip, Rewind?**

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Outline

Where we were – LGR Implementation

Where we are – LGR ‘Pause’

What happens now and next?

Collaboration

Rewiring the State and Devolution

CCA, MSA and the potential for greater focus on places

DALC, Town & Parish relationships

Q&A



LGR – Where we were, just 30 days ago!

LGR Implementation Programme

- Senior Responsible Officer
- Deputy SROs for each new council
- Raft of technical workstreams including data, finance, HR, IT tech and digital, assets
- Governance
- PMO stood up
- Theme work across Adults, Children's, Place and Corporate about to start
- Timelines working to SCO ahead of shadow elections in May 27



LGR – 7th September

‘The Secretary of State will announce later today that we are undertaking a review of the Local Government Reorganisation programme...

Until this review has concluded, I am asking you, together with your partners, to cease work on implementing the decisions that were announced in July. I want to acknowledge the work that your teams have undertaken on local government reorganisation. This decision in no way reflects the work done locally in developing plans, building consensus where it can be found, and marshalling your organisation and partners for the change ahead. But I do believe this reduces the risk of nugatory work if, after further review, we decide to change course.

While the current timetable for reorganisation envisages local elections scheduled for May 2027 being replaced by elections to the new councils, this review means elections scheduled to take place in May 2027 will go ahead to existing council boundaries.

I appreciate that this position will feel uncomfortable...’

Extracts from Minister’s letter to Councils, 07/09/26





LGR 'Pause' - What happens next?

'How are we going to make sure we don't lose the opportunities that the efforts of the last 18 months have identified?'





Lessons learned from this phase of activity – usual evaluative reflection



Good practice approach – maximising value of all work done to date



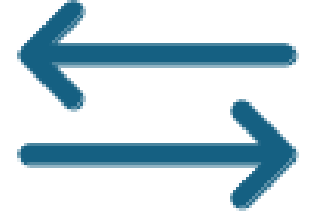
Exploring agnostic opportunity (pending LGR 'review') while maintaining flexibility and system agility



Pause LGR-specific 'theme' and geography-based work in accordance with 'cease' Ministerial letter



Scope to identify potential value tasks **for Devon** in the short-medium term



Likely pivot to Devo as government direction in White Paper. Opportunity to shape/define what devo and governance works **for Devon**, with political parity and local origin of the ask/intent rather than central stipulation)



So what happens next?

- **Focused collaboration in uncertain times**

Continue selectively, not structurally

Broad support for cross-council collaboration where there is a clear shared problem, defined benefits and senior sponsorship.

Prioritise practical value

Focus on a small number of tangible opportunities that improve resilience, efficiency or future readiness.

Grow what exists

Relationships, shared learning, data mapping, registers and early technical foundations should not be lost.

Strengthen governance

Define mandate, outcomes, decision rights, resources, dependencies and reporting from the outset.

- **Working together for Devon in the context of wider public service reform – Policing, Health**



Rewiring the State and Devolution

Cabinet statement on Rewiring the State, released on 31/07/26

[Rewiring the State – Cabinet Statement \(HTML\) - GOV.UK](#)

‘This autumn, alongside the Budget and fiscal devolution roadmap that will set out our overall approach to revenue assignment and rates retention, we will publish a white paper detailing our plans for the full set of reforms and a clear timetable for their implementation.’



Rewiring the State and Devolution

What could this mean for Devon?

- A change to our current devolved arrangements under the Combined County Authority (CCA)
- The potential for Plymouth City to join the CCA (subject to consultation outcome and decisions)
- The potential for a speedy transition to a Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA), which would take the place of the CCA, headed by a directly elected mayor
- Mayoral elections at some point in 2027 or 2028



For Local Councils and DALC?

- Governance, Grievance and Guesswork!
- Change is coming, we just don't know exactly what form it will take...
- Positive clustering and relationship building will continue to serve you well
- Time (at least another year) to plan for things you might want to take on or deliver
- An opportunity for new electoral mandates in 2027 at parish, town and district level – new foundations at local level alongside the strategic mayoralties or devo
- A renewed policy focus on place and communities; good growth in every postcode, hope in every heart (PM speech)



OPEN DISCUSSION

Q & A

Questions · reflections · next steps

