

Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Thursday, 25 September 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision	Reasons	Alternative Options
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Part A – Items considered in public

A4	Local Government Re-organisation: Final proposal for Hampshire & Isle of Wight	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That views of council have been reviewed by Cabinet following the consideration of the submission 'close enough to be local, big enough to stay strong' at Full Council 24 September 2025. 2. That the full proposal to government at Appendix 4 of report CAB3515 be approved, including the council's primary support for Option 2 within the proposal, for submission to Government by the 26 September 2025 deadline 	<p>On February 5, 2025, the Government selected Hampshire and the Solent to be part of its Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) to create a Strategic Authority and elected Mayor in 2026.</p> <p>On the same day, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government wrote to request that all principal councils in Hampshire bring forward proposals for Local Government re-organisation (LGR) with the interim plan considered by this Council in March 2025 and final</p>	<p>Support an alternate proposal in the submission</p> <p>The recommendation is this report is that the Council support Option 2, creating a Mid Hampshire Unitary Council based on the current full district boundaries of Test Valley Borough Council, Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council along with relevant disaggregated services from Hampshire County Council delivered in that geography.</p> <p>Having considered the views of Council, Cabinet could determine that a different proposal in the submission</p>
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		<p>3. That it be noted that a final version of the proposal is under preparation following external legal advice which details that Option 3 will be referred to as Option 1A which is Option 1 as the core option but this is wholly conditional upon a formal request to Government as part of the Council's submission to undertake a modification to permit Option 1A as outlined in the proposal documents.</p> <p>4. That it be noted that council has agreed that in the event of minor changes being</p>	<p>proposals to be submitted by 26 September 2025.</p> <p>Following the final submission, all proposals that meet the prescribed criteria will be subject to public consultation by the Government. Ministers will then decide their preferred option for LGR in Hampshire and Solent, and lay legislation in Parliament with the most ambitious timetable leading to the new Unitary Councils taking legal effect from 1 April 2028.</p> <p>Report CAB3515 presents the final proposal '<i>close enough to be local, big enough to stay strong</i>' prepared by 12 local authorities in Hampshire and Isle of Wight. The report asks</p>	<p>be supported.</p> <p>Do not support any proposal</p> <p>Having considered the views of Council, Cabinet could determine not to support any proposal in the final submission, but it is inevitable that the submission will be made and that Government will determine which proposals proceed to public consultation.</p> <p>Not supporting any proposal is not recommended.</p>

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		<p>necessary to the proposal, if they are agreed by all 12 councils, that the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive is authorised to agree such amendments on behalf of Winchester City Council.</p>	<p>Cabinet to consider the document, the comments made by Council at its meeting of 24 September and determine whether to submit the proposal to Government. It also asks that Cabinet determine support for Option 2 of the proposed new unitary authority geographies for Hampshire and Isle of Wight.</p> <p>In addition, Council are asked to agree that in the event of minor changes being necessary to the proposal, if they are agreed by all 12 councils, that the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive is authorised to agree such amendments on behalf of Winchester City Council.</p>	