

Council

13 November 2025

Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution 4D Business Case

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Vince Maple, Leader of the Council

Report from: Richard Hicks, Chief Executive

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Summary

Following the publication of the English Devolution White Paper in December 2024, all councils in Kent and Medway were invited in February 2025 by the Secretary of State (SoS) to submit proposals for local government reorganisation (LGR) for the region of Kent by 28 November 2025.

The decision on the submission of a proposal to the SoS is an executive decision and will be made by the Cabinet on 18 November 2025. Attached at **Appendix A** is the final report to Cabinet which presents all the business cases developed across Kent.

All of the business cases propose replacing the existing two-tier system in other parts of Kent, by establishing differing numbers of Unitary Authorities. These can then create the foundation for a Kent and Medway Combined County Authority (CCA) to deliver devolution, enabling greater local control over transport, housing, skills, and climate change programmes.

This paper is brought to Council to provide an opportunity for all members to engage in the consideration of the business cases appended, debate the options and provide a non-binding steer to Cabinet in advance of their consideration on 18 November 2025.

1. Recommendation

- 1.1. The Council is requested to consider the various proposals for local government reorganisation in Kent and provide a steer to Cabinet on their preferred proposal.

2. Budget and policy framework

- 2.1. This decision falls within the Council's policy and budget framework. Further details are provided in the Cabinet report appended.

3. Diversity Impact Assessment

- 3.1. Further details are provided in the Cabinet report appended.

4. Risk management

- 4.1. Further details are provided in the Cabinet report appended.

5. Consultation and Engagement

- 5.1. Further details are provided in the Cabinet report appended.

6. Climate change implications

- 6.1. Further details are provided in the Cabinet report appended.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1. Further details are provided in the Cabinet report appended.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1. Further details are provided in the Cabinet report appended.

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Appendices

Appendix A – 18 November 2025 Cabinet report

Background papers

None