

Local Government Reorganisation: Government's minded to decision

Sent on behalf of Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen, Breckland Council Leader

To all Breckland Members,

(to be copied to Town and Parish Councils)

I am writing to you as I have just been advised that the Government has confirmed its decision on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Norfolk.

They have opted to replace current arrangements with three new unitary authorities, West, East and Greater Norwich.

Whilst this is tinged with a little sadness – as many of us, including myself, have not advocated scrapping the current system – it is welcome that the Government have at least understood the strength of the proposals we backed and the importance of keeping the local in local Government.

After May 2028, services currently covered by the existing seven District Councils and County Council will be replaced by unitary authorities. The areas of Breckland Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, plus a small number of parishes from South Norfolk, will make up the new authority for West Norfolk.

The decision today will also see two additional unitary authorities established, one for Greater Norwich and one for East Norfolk.

A huge amount of work is required to deliver LGR, and this will draw on the time and effort of elected members and officers.

Bill and I have arranged a briefing for all Breckland Members on Friday (27th March at 3pm), with a briefing for town and parish partners as soon as it can be arranged.

There are many, many details still to follow, but for now the key milestones as we understand them are:

- **Later this year** – The Government will set out the legislation to enact this ‘minded to’ decision, this will include details of interim governance
- **May 2027** – Shadow elections take place for the new unitary councils.
- **31 March 2028** – Breckland Council will close.
- **1 April 2028** - The new unitary council ‘goes live’ and takes over from predecessors.

It is important to stress, that during the transition process over the next two years, all council services will continue to be delivered by Breckland, and that residents and businesses should be confident in contacting the Council for any support.

Regards,

Sam

Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen

Leader, Breckland Council