

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Advisory Group

6th October 2025

Agenda

1. Introduction to Minister McGovern
2. Standing items
3. Lessons Learned from Surrey
5. Housing and Planning
6. AOB and next steps

Meeting Notes

Participants were introduced to the new Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness, Alison McGovern who expressed her gratitude to the Advisory Group members for the valuable advice they provided the department.

MHCLG presented their findings from a lessons learned exercise that was undertaken to understand how the Local Government Reorganisation submission and consultation process was managed in Surrey and how it could be improved for other areas. They received feedback about recognising the different dynamics present for councils involved, and the usefulness of recognising and codifying good practice.

The department then presented a paper on the overlap between LGR and housing and planning. They received feedback on the importance of local plans and protecting housing supply and the impact of different policy priorities and reforms on the planning system.