



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Alison McGovern MP**  
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Homelessness*  
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Sent by email to: Leaders of Surrey Councils

9 March 2026

Dear Leaders,

I am writing to inform you that, following approval of the draft Order in both Houses of Parliament, today I signed the Surrey (Structural Changes) Order 2026, and that this Order comes into force tomorrow, 10 March 2026. The Order and the Explanatory Memorandum will be available on-line shortly at [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk).

I would like to thank you, your councils and staff for the tremendous amount of work you have put into getting to this stage of the local government reorganisation for Surrey. The making of the Order is an important milestone in introducing single tier local government in Surrey, which will deliver this Government's vision of stronger local councils equipped to drive economic growth, improve local public services, and empower their communities.

However, this is only the start of the work that is needed for a successful delivery of the reorganisation for Surrey. I am pleased therefore to have seen that you have already made notable progress on the formation of the Joint Committees and Implementation Team and commenced the creation of the required Implementation Plan.

As you will already be aware, as we move into the implementation stage there is an enormous amount of work still needed to enable the delivery of the new councils for 1 April 2027. As Leaders, I know that you will be determined to ensure the best outcome for your residents, the continuation of good quality services and maximising the opportunities for further service improvements that a unitary council offers. A smooth transition to the new authorities is the best start for the new organisations.

To achieve that, local government reorganisation has to be a shared endeavour, with a relentless focus on the task at hand to ensure the best start for the new councils. It is imperative that all of the key players involved work together and proactively continue to abide by the duty for councils to co-operate with one another. This creates the platform that will ensure a successful delivery.

To support you in achieving that outcome, in making the transitional arrangements in the Order, I took the view that throughout the whole process all councils must be involved, with the Chief Executive of Surrey County Council leading the Implementation Team. Specific aspects of the transition will of course include the division of county assets, contracts, staff and services between both new councils.

In addition, to supplement the Order, the attached note provides a more detailed explanation of the roles and responsibilities of predecessor councils, Joint Committees, Shadow Councils and the Implementation Team across the transition period. The note provides clarity on the expectations of roles and the governance structures that will support your transition to the new councils.

Finally, I wish to again thank you all for your continued efforts to deliver the new unitary councils in Surrey. I look forward to continuing to work with you throughout this transitional year, and my officials are also available to provide support that may be needed as you progress through this vital implementation stage.

I am copying this letter to your Chief Executives, Best Value Commissioners, local MPs and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Alison McGovern MP  
Minister for Local Government and Homelessness