



What does Local Government Reorganisation mean to you?

Tuesday 9 June 2026

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Introductions: NAVCA

Patrick Mahon
Head of Policy &
Public Affairs,
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Jill Hopkinson
Policy Manager,
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James Allen
Facilitator



Gethyn Williams
Facilitator



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Introductions: Guests

Andy Dayne Worpole
(Former) Director,
Essex Community
Foundation



Angela Galvin
CEO, Third Sector
Kirklees



Ben Rollett
CEO, CVS Lincolnshire

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**ACTION WITH
COMMUNITIES
IN RURAL ENGLAND**

Navigating LGR



Local government is changing – and we're here to help you navigate it

NAVCA and ACRE are working in partnership to enable the VCFSE sector, local infrastructure organisations (LIOs) and rural community support charities, and forming unitary and strategic authorities to work together effectively through devolution and local government reorganisation.

Latest News and Resources

Resource

Navigating Changes In Local Councils Post-May 2026 Elections

Following the May 2026 local elections, the political landscape for councils in England has changed significantly. The political party system has continued to fragment and there has been a substantial turnover in councillors, with thousands elected for the first time. The largest changes are the increase in the total number of councils now with no overall control, and the election of 1451 councillors for Reform UK, who took control of 14 new councils. These changing circumstances have implications for how local infrastructure organisations [LIOs] work with councils.

May 26, 2026

Download

Resource

Enabling Conversations: Joint Working

Local government reorganisation will have significant implications for many VCFSE organisations working over a local council footprint. NAVCA and ACRE have worked together to support VCFSE organisations of all types, and their members to think about partnership, collaboration and merger. We share some key learning and signpost to professional resources to support these changes.

May 22, 2026

Download

Explore the Microsite

- A NAVCA / ACRE partnership
- MHCLG / LBF EW funded



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About today's webinar

- **Orienting:** what is happening, why it matters
- **Sensemaking:** what we are learning so far
- **Implications:** what this means for VCFSE organisations
- **Action:** what you can do now

Opening Poll: confidence around LGR

How much do you feel you understand the current round of Local Government Reorganisation?

Poll options – scale 1-10

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SETTING THE SCENE

About LGR and Devolution

- What's the difference between LGR and Devolution?
- Why do these agendas matter so much?
- A quick word on health and care changes
- What's happening on both, right now?
- And what's coming next?

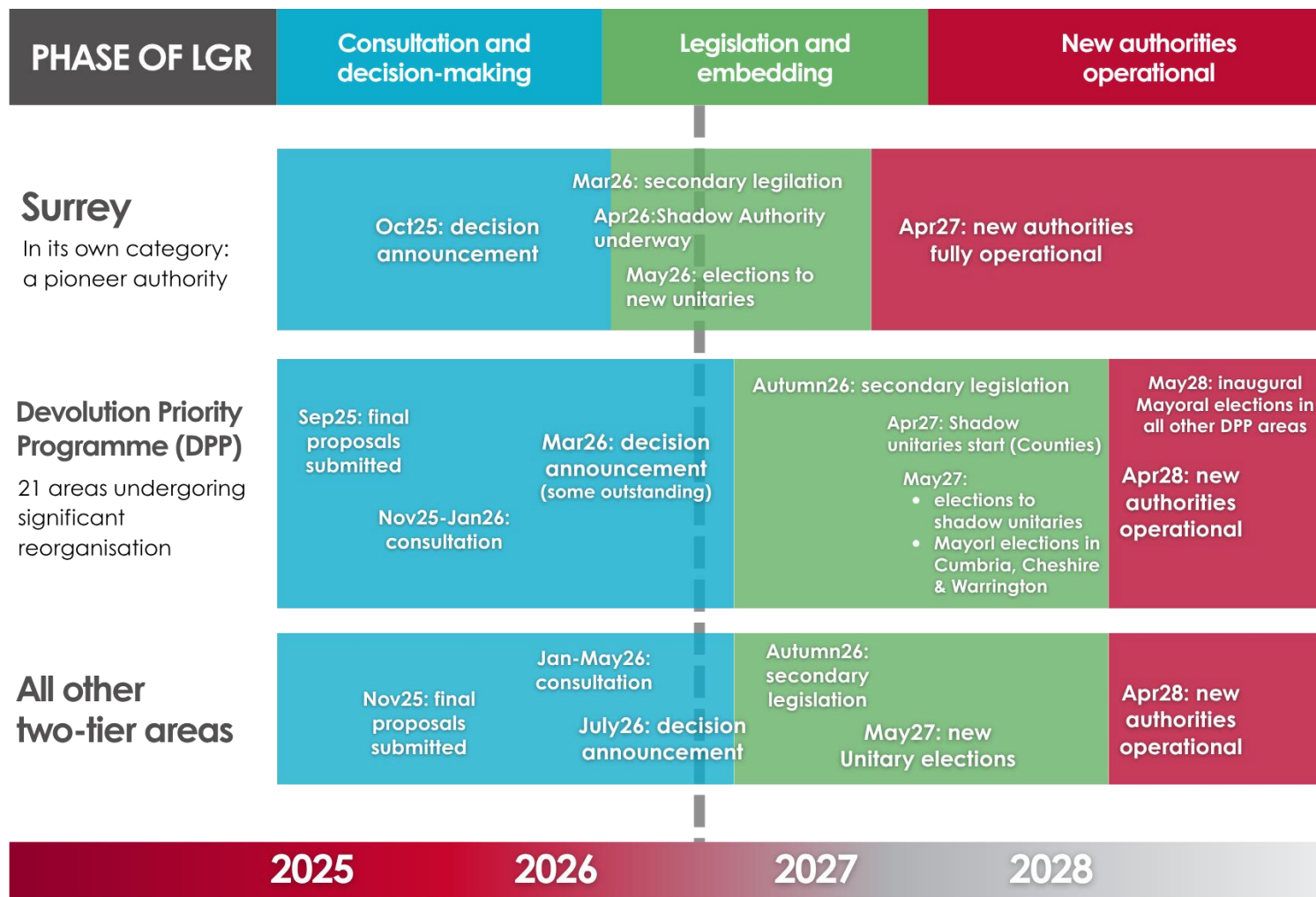
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LGR & Devo: bigger than you might think

- 6 Devolution priority areas
- 21 LGR areas
- Essex, Hampshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, East and West Sussex – LGR and devolution at the same time
- 41% of English population affected
- LGR in all other remaining two-tier areas in less than 12 months

LGR timeline



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ACTION WITH
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Donald Rumsfeld's guide to LGR

Level of awareness ↑	Known unknowns <i>Things we know we don't know (gaps)</i> • Final configurations in Sussex • Arrangements in 14 counties • Impact of political instability	Known Knowns <i>Things we explicitly know (e.g. facts)</i> • 21 areas currently engaged (for LGR) • Surrey 12 months ahead • 6 devolution priority areas
	Unknown unknowns <i>Things we don't know that we don't know about</i> • ???	Unknown knowns <i>Things we know but don't fully understand</i> • The nature of Neighbourhood governance • Intersection of LGR with ICB reorganisation and health

Level of understanding →

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INSIGHT & ANALYSIS

Political & System Insight

- **LGR/DEVO is happening against an unusually volatile political backdrop** – fragmentation, uncertainty, new parties, and rapid change
- **May 26 elections fundamentally altered the LG landscape** – more No Overall Control councils, more parties represented, and significant shifts in political leadership
- **Expect disruption, but also opportunities to reset relationships** – political change creates uncertainty/delay – but also opens doors to new conversations and influence
- **Many councils now led by large numbers of new councillors** – bringing fresh perspectives, but also less experience, weaker institutional memory, and new ways of working
- **The organisations that thrive** will be those that stay informed, build relationships, and make a clear, evidence-based case for their communities

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Political & System: poll

- On a scale of 1-10...
 - *How would you describe your current level of confidence to engage with the local politics of your area?*
- Putting that into words...
 - *Explain your score, in a couple of words*
 - *What made you submit the number you did?*

Analysis

- Reactions to political and system analysis
- Reactions to poll results
- With James, Jill and Patrick

EMERGING IMPLICATIONS

Panel Discussion

- **Angela Galvin, Kirklees:** successful elements of partnership development during LGR/devo
- **Ben Rollet, Lincolnshire:** navigating historic devo and current LGR in a large rural county
- **Andy Walpole, Essex:** building a diverse coalition of voices to engage with LGR

Closing Poll: confidence around LGR

Following today's seminar, how much do you *now* feel you understand about this current round of Local Government Reorganisation?

Poll options – scale 1-10

Wrapping up

- Thank you
- Next steps for the project
- Your takeaway resource

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