

# Supplement for

# Scrutiny Committee

On **Wednesday 5 November 2025** At **6.00 pm**

## Agenda Item 6 Local Government Reorganisation - Appendix 4 Three Unitary Authorities Proposal - Risk Register

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#### 6. **Local Government Reorganisation**

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Cabinet, at its Special meeting on 10 November 2025, will be presented with three final unitary proposals and decide which proposal should be submitted to Government by Oxford City Council on 28 November 2025.

All Oxfordshire Councils have been invited to submit proposals for Local Government Reorganisation, replacing existing two-tier councils with a single 'unitary' layer of local government. Oxford City Council has been developing a proposal for the creation of three unitary councils across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. Proposals for two unitaries (covering Oxon & W Berks), and a single unitary (covering Oxon) being developed by other councils in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.

The Committee is asked to consider the item and agree any recommendations.

The agenda, reports and any additional supplements can be found together with this supplement on the committee meeting webpage.

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Appendix Four: Risk Register - LGR draft Three Unitary Authorities proposal

Title	Risk Description	Cause	Consequence	Owner	Gross		Current			Target		Control Description	Progress	Date Due	Action Owner
					P	I	P	I	Score	P	I				
Financial	Level of net efficiencies not achieved	While a prudent approach has been taken to modelling of costs and savings, there remain uncertainties around overall level of efficiencies that will be delivered:  MTFS outturns for each of 7 constituent councils and management of high cost services up to vesting  Funding formula changes  Future decisions taken by new unitary councils	A lower level of net efficiencies would lead to a longer payback period for transition costs	Transition Director								Detailed financial modelling supported by Pixel Financial, and Inner Circle Consulting  Common position on financial data used for modelling among all 7 councils  Prudent approach taken, including contingency  Projections show all three councils will achieve very strong business growth, that will enable recovery and a business rates position.	100%	Closed	Transition Director
Boundaries	3UA proposal is taken forward without modification	Government does not grant modification requested to enable boundary changes	If Government accepted 3UA proposal but chose not to grant the modification requested to enable boundary changes:  Would significantly reduce opportunity to deliver step change in economic growth  Would significantly reduce ability to deliver new housing sufficient to meet Oxford's needs close to city	Transition Director								Regular dialogue with MHCLG officials throughout development of proposal  Advice sought from Boundary Commission  KC legal advice taken over structuring of proposal and modification request  18 of 21 English county areas undergoing LGR are understood to include proposals involving boundary changes	100%	Closed	Transition Director
Implementation	Implementation of new councils has negative impacts on existing authorities	A lower level of net efficiencies would lead to a longer payback period for transition costs.  Additional workload on officers.  Uncertainty over future leads to loss of key staff  Councils fail to reach agreement on fully collaborative approach to implementation	Transitional and transformational cost savings are delayed  Service levels in existing and/ or new councils are negatively impacted  Potential delay to implementation	Transition Director								Consistency among outline implementation plans put forward across all three proposals  Well understood pathway to creation of new councils with additional support from LGA and MHCLG  Strong track record of collaborative working in Oxfordshire	50%	Open	Transition Director

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