Local Government Reorganisation and the Community Governance Review

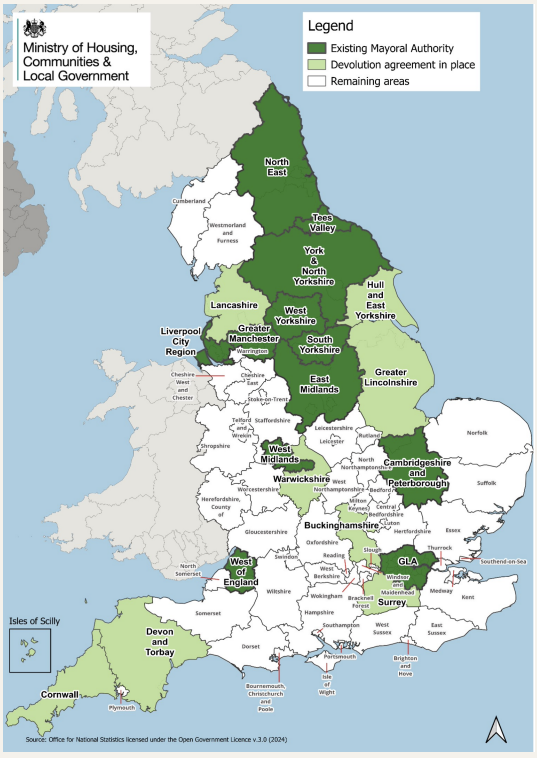
What it means for Wincheap

September 2026

LGR: A RECAP

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS A MESS

Central Government wants one system across the country - with regional Mayors



TWO PROCESSES
TWO DIFFERENT OBJECTIVES

LGR
Local Government Reorganisation

Abolishes Kent CC and Canterbury CC.

Creates new unitary council(s) for ~500,000 people.

Government decided theEast Kent geography summer 2026.

Then paused the process: September

SO: WE'RE IN LIMBO

CGR
Community Governance Review

Reviews the parish tier across the district.

Can create, merge or abolish parishes; change boundaries, names, councillor numbers.

Run by Canterbury CC, cross-party Working Group.

Stage one reported: September 2026

PARISHES EVERYWHERE EXCEPT CANTERBURY!!.

LGR: CCC PREFERENCE

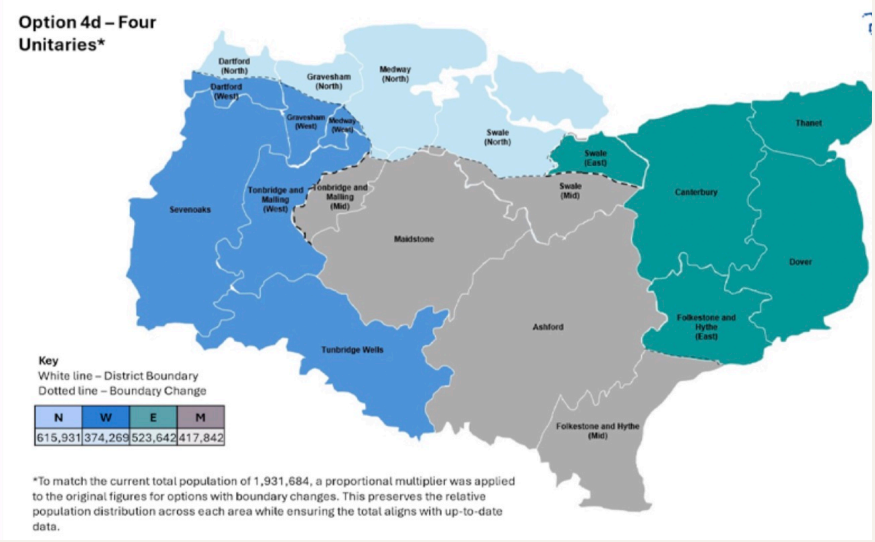
Option 4D: Four unitary councils

East Kent Population:

417,842

UA Councillors:
1 / 4375 voters

CCC Now: 1 / 3100

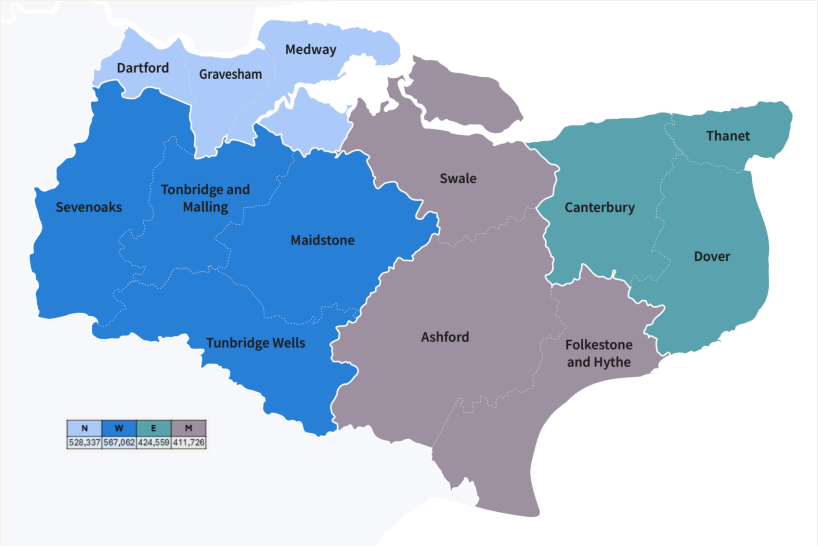


LGR: THE GOVERNMENT CHOICE

Option 4B: Four unitary councils

East Kent Population:

411,726



SUMMARY

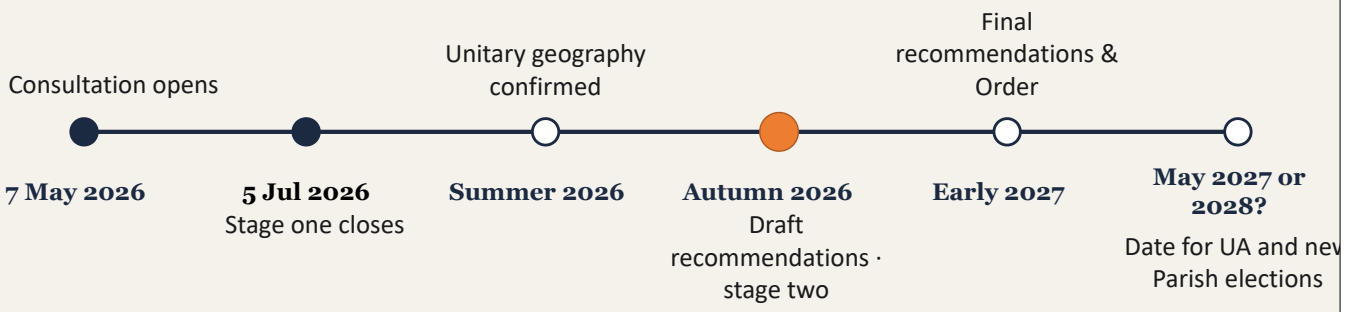
Parish councils survive. The City council does not.

Canterbury City Council and Kent County Council will be abolished. A new East Kent unitary council will deliver services from …. ??? 2029.

The CGR is the **one process** where residents have a direct say in what comes next.

CGR: THE CLOCK

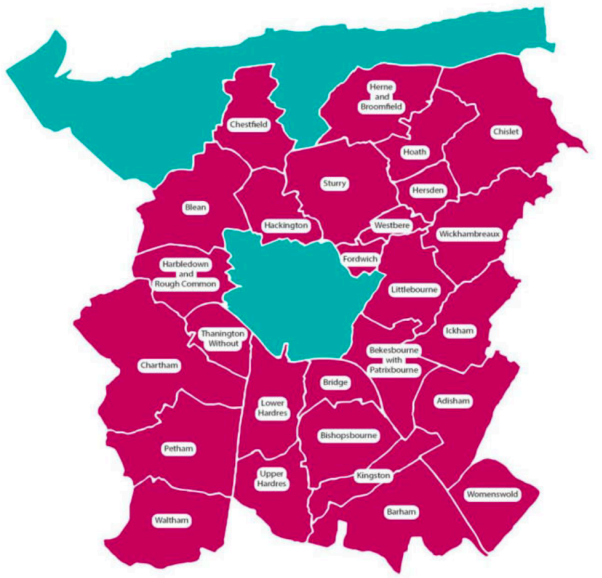
City Council Timetable: where we are (probably)



Stage two closes December 17th. 2027 elections probably deferred to 2028

EXISTING & NEW PARISHES

NOW: 27 PARISHES, BUT CITY AND COAST UNPARISHED



The GCR Proposals:

New parishes / town councils Proposed for:

- Whitstable
- Seasalter
- Tankerton
- Herne Bay

Merger / expansion:

- Chestfield and Swalecliffe
- Blean and Yorkletts
- Chislet, Hoath and Reculver

Effect:
Canterbury will be the only unparished area in East Kent

COMPLICATION: CITY STATUS & THE MAYORALTY

CCC says City status at risk if Parish / Town Council is set up

So: CCC wants to establish "Charter Trustees"

- Which requires Royal Assent
- Which no-one knows how long it will take to gain
- Which means the CGR for the whole City area is paused
- But no-one knows for how long
- Or who the Trustees will be, or how appointed
- Or What events will restart the CGR
- Or at what point in the process it will restart
- Or how (if at all) the Charter Trustees will hand the Charter back to a Town Council

THE QUESTION THAT WILL COME UP

What could a parish do?

- Neighbourhood Plan
- Highway Improvement Plan
- Events
- Older persons' transport
- Sport and Playgrounds
- Public realm maintenance
- Attend the Unitary Council's Area Committees

Four things to consider

01 The influence Town Councils will have

02 The central issue of traffic & the A28

03 Challenging planning applications

04 How is Wincheap best protected?

IMPLICATIONS FOR WINCHEAP

Boundaries that reflect growth

Where housing has been built or is committed, the line on the map may not match the community on the ground. **Wincheap estate is an example.**

Right-sizing the parish council

How many parish councillors?
How many wards?
Where are the boundaries?

Working together

Does Wincheap share common problems and solutions with the other City wards? Or is it sufficiently different to need to stand alone?

CCC assets and services

Toilets, halls, open spaces, services. If Wincheap or a Town Council wants to take on (or refuse) anything from the legacy councils, the conversation starts now.

IF WE'RE SILENT, DECISIONS GET MADE FOR US

The parish and town council tier will matter more after 2028, not less.

After abolition, the Parish Council will be the only directly elected body within walking distance of most residents. This CGR is how we shape that.

Stage two consultation closes Thursday 17 December 2026

Questions to: cgr@canterbury.gov.uk.

THE QUESTION FOR WINCHEAP …

How should you respond to the stage two Community Governance Review?