

East Herts Council – Non-Key Decision Record

Record of executive decision made by an individual under Regulation 13 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Reference Number: NKD26/07

Taken by: Councillor Ben Crystall, Leader of the Council

Decision

East Herts Council's Agreement to the County-wide Response to the Government's Initial Consultation on the Upcoming Structural Change Order related to Local Government Reorganisation in Hertfordshire.

Date of Decision

8 June 2026

Reason(s) for decision

As part of the ongoing preparations for local government reorganisation (LGR) in Hertfordshire, all local authorities in the county have been invited by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to provide their views on a series of preliminary matters relating to the setting up of the new unitaries. This is the first stage of consultation between MHCLG and the Hertfordshire authorities on the content of the Structural Change Order (SCO) for the county, this being the statutory legal instrument by which the existing councils will be replaced by the new unitaries, the number of which is yet to be determined by the government.

As with all LGR preparations, all councils across Hertfordshire wish to provide a single return. A single response has been drafted with input from all councils. The deadline for responding to this first tranche of questions on the SCO is 16th June.

Details of alternative options considered and rejected

Seek to amend the proposed responses in some way. NOT RECOMMENDED as (a) the response to one question has already been amended to accommodate East Herts Council's wish to consult the district's parish and town councils about the proposed timing of their elections and (b) the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer have reviewed the proposed responses and are of the opinion that they are compatible with the council's previous statements on LGR and the interests of residents.

Refuse to agree to a single, unified Hertfordshire-wide response. NOT RECOMMENDED as this would be at odds with the county-wide position of establishing consensus where at all possible regarding LGR.

Does the decision or report contain exempt information?

No.

State nature of any declaration of conflict of interest made by any Executive Member who is consulted by the Member taking the decision

None.

State, in respect of any declared conflict of interest, whether any dispensation has been granted

None.

Contact Officer

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