

For circulation to Parish and Town Councils in Tonbridge & Malling only

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

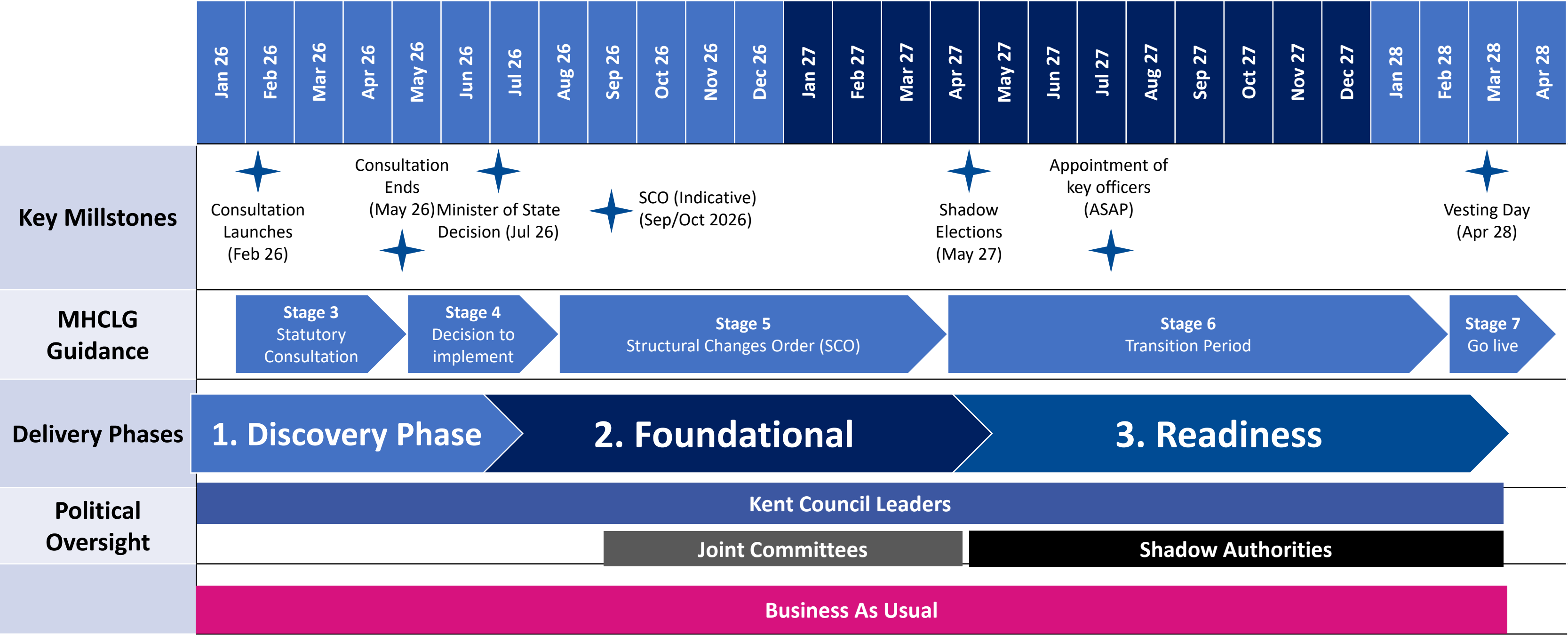
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Cllr Matt Boughton, Leader of the Council
Damian Roberts, Chief Executive
5 February 2026



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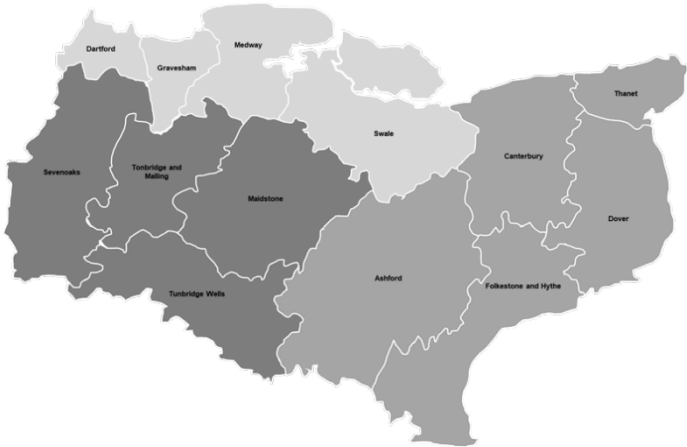
Timeline to the new Unitary



5 Models

Separate structure and content using shared evidence base

Single unitary (1A)



Kent
1,931,684

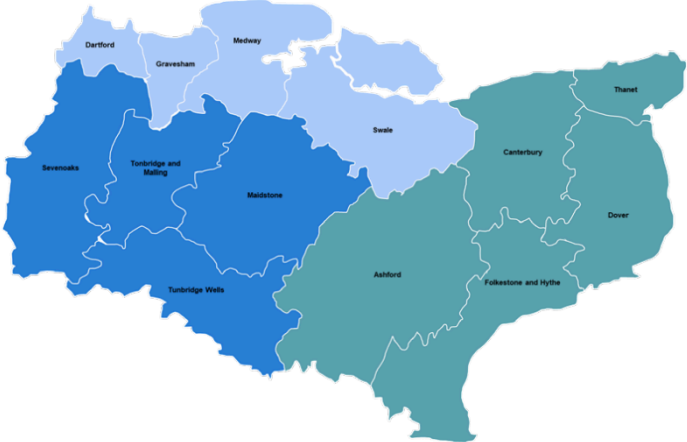
Single unitary with three area assemblies

Options 3A and 4B are the only ones being paid for from the Government’s LGR allocation for the whole of Kent

**Option 4D and 5A propose boundary changes*

Shared structure and significant shared content across all four business cases

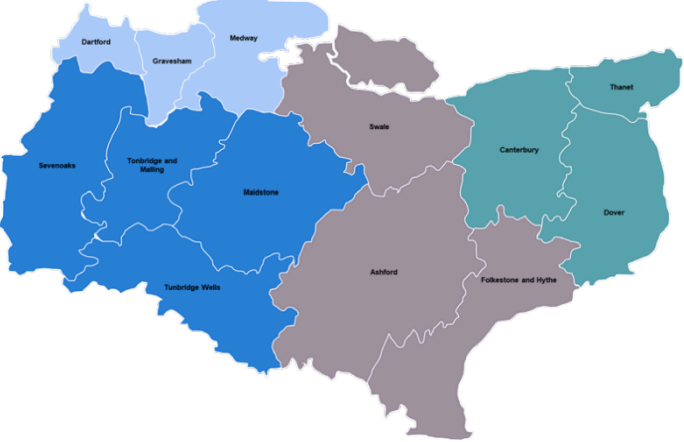
Three unitaries (3A)



A three unitary option with a north, east and west unitary.

N	W	E
686,716	567,062	677,906

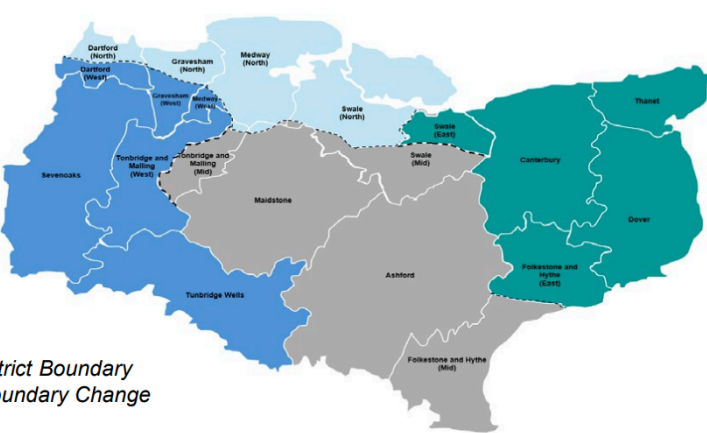
Four unitaries (4B)



A four unitary option with unitaries in the north, west, centre and east.

N	W	E	M
528,337	567,062	424,559	411,726

Four unitaries (4D)*

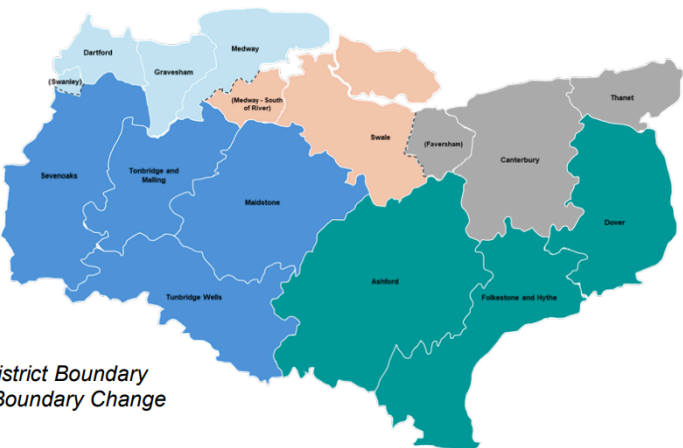


Key:
White line – District Boundary
Dotted line – Boundary Change

A four unitary option with unitaries in the north, west, centre and east, including boundary changes.

N	W	E	M
615,931	374,269	523,642	417,842

Five unitaries (5A)*

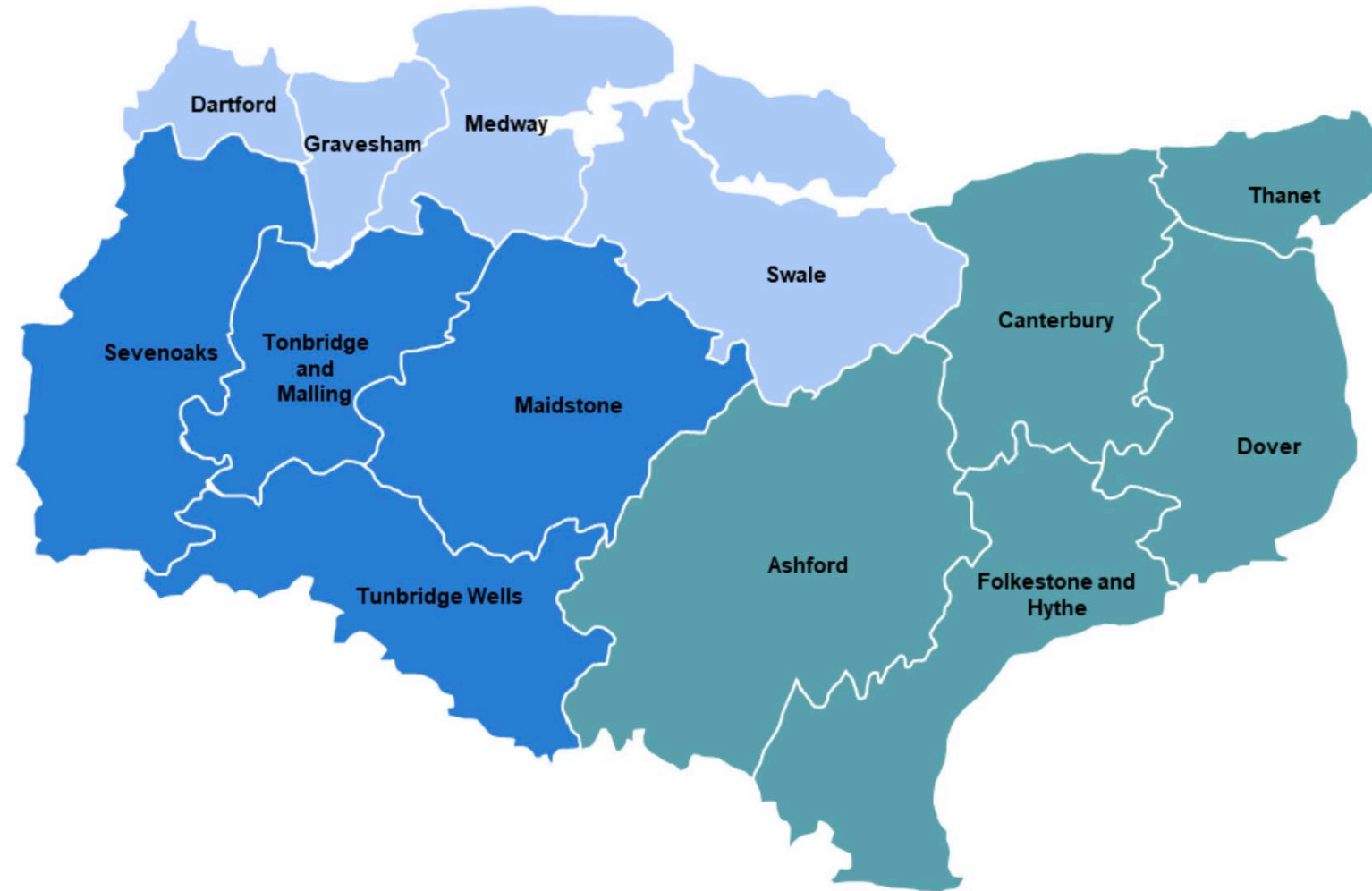


Key:
White line – District Boundary
Dotted line – Boundary Change

A five unitary option, including boundary changes.

N	W	E	M	S
330,536	544,814	342,934	340,286	373,115

Our Three Unitary Proposal



- Balanced populations
- Sufficient scale to withstand financial shocks
- Respects local identities and your existing boundaries
- Aligns closely with existing partner geographies
- Creates building blocks for Devolution & a strategic authority
- Cost effective with the best pay-back period of any multi unitary option

This option has the support of the greatest number of Boroughs and Districts – Folkestone & Hythe, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells.

Concerns with other models

- Any option that breaks existing borough and parish boundaries (4D and 5A) would add significant and unnecessary risk, complexity and cost to the new Councils.
- Any option that breaks existing borough and parish boundaries would also create significant problems for other service providers adding to their costs and complexity. (4D and 5A)
- Any option with more than 3 Unitary Councils may not be financially viable or big enough to withstand financial challenges/shocks (4B, 4D and 5A).
- A single unitary (1A) the size of Kent and Medway could be unwieldy to manage, completely out of step with the rest of Local Government trying to serve a 2 million population, be too remote from the communities it serves, and would be incompatible with devolution

Government's Consultation Website

Consultation opened today (5 February) and will continue for 7 weeks

Deadline 26 March

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/kent-and-medway/consultation/subpage.2026-02-03.9571411642/>



Survey Questions

12 Questions for each of the 5 Models

9 of the questions ask that you select from the following scale

✓ -- Please Select --

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Survey Questions (1 of 3)

- 1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?**
- 2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?**
- 3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?**
- 4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that this proposal will put local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing, particularly given that some councils in the area are in receipt of exceptional financial support?**

Survey Questions (2 of 3)

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements?

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

Survey Questions (3 of 3)

9. If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-8 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on the proposal.

10. This is a proposal that is accompanied by a request that the Secretary of State considers boundary change or that affects wider public services. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal sets out a strong public services and financial sustainability justification for boundary change?

11. If you would like to, please use this free text box to explain your answer to question

12. I confirm that I have not provided any information that identifies an individual in the free text box.

Write to the Government

LGRconsultationresponse@communities.gov.uk

Write to:

LGR Consultation
Fry Building 2NE
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Pavilion and Recreation Ground – Riding Lane – Hildenborough – TN11 9HY

telephone: 07818 329029

Email: clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website : www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

23rd December 2025,

Dear Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council,

Re: Local Government Reorganisation in Kent – Response to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council’s Submission

Hildenborough Parish Council has considered Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council’s response to the Government’s invitation regarding proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Kent.

We write to confirm that Hildenborough Parish Council supports Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council’s position, including its endorsement of Option 3A – the creation of three Unitary Councils across Kent.

We agree that this option presents the strongest and most balanced case for reorganisation.

Finally, we welcome and strongly endorse TMBC’s emphasis on the vital role of Town and Parish Councils. These councils are essential to local service delivery, community representation, and the safeguarding of local identity. We agree that they must have a meaningful and clearly defined place within any future governance arrangements.

In summary, Hildenborough Parish Council supports the adoption of **Option 3A** as the most viable, least disruptive, and most community-focused model for Local Government Reorganisation in Kent.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Jenner
RFO & Parish Clerk
Hildenborough Parish Council