

Briefing Note

Committee name: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 2 March 2026

Responsible officer: Alice McAlpine, LGR Governance and Legal Programme Lead

This note provides information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Cabinet or a committee but where no decisions from Members are needed.

If Members have questions relating to matters shown, they are asked to contact the officer indicated.

To ensure that there is accountability for, and understanding of, the Gloucestershire Local Government Reorganisation Programme it has been proposed that there should be a mechanism for joint scrutiny established across all Gloucestershire councils. The presentation to the committee will set out the options considered and the preferred option identified by the Joint LGR Programme Board which consists of all Gloucestershire councils Chief Executives. The preferred option has also been shared with the Leaders of all the Gloucestershire councils.

Four options were originally proposed and these were:

- (1) A formal Joint Scrutiny Committee
- (2) A Scrutiny Committee or sub-committee “hosted” by one council with membership from across all councils but with political proportionality reflecting the “host” council.
- (3) Separate scrutiny by each council
- (4) A Joint Scrutiny Panel with membership reflecting the political proportionality of the whole county.

The Joint LGR Programme Board identified the preferred option to be a Joint Scrutiny Panel.

In the presentation made to the committee the LGR Governance and Legal Programme Lead will present the four options above setting out the advantages and disadvantages of each.

The presentation will conclude with an overview of the proposed membership of the Joint Scrutiny Panel and the next steps.

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