

Cheltenham Borough Council
Joint Scrutiny Panel, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
22 July 2026

Terms of Reference for Joint Scrutiny Panel

Accountable member	Councillor Tabi Joy, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cheltenham Borough Council
Accountable officer	Alison McKane, Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer, Cheltenham Borough Council alison.mckane@cheltenham.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected	all
Key/Significant Decision	No
Executive summary	To consider and agree the Terms of Reference for the Joint Scrutiny Panel LGR
Recommendations	The Joint Scrutiny Panel is asked to: 1. Consider the draft terms of reference for the Joint Scrutiny Panel attached to this report at Appendix 1 and 2. To agree the terms of reference as proposed or as amended by the Panel.
Financial implications	None
Legal implications	The Joint Scrutiny Panel, LGR, has been set up by Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) as a Scrutiny Working Group under Part 4D para 2.8 of its Constitution and has co-opted representatives from the other 6 Gloucestershire Councils. Contact officer: Alison McKane, Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer, Cheltenham Borough Council alison.mckane@cheltenham.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 The seven existing Gloucestershire councils (Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Stroud District Council, Cotswolds District Council and Forest of Dean District Council) (“the Participating Councils”) are currently progressing work associated with LGR.
- 1.2 The Participating Councils agreed to set up a Joint Scrutiny Panel (“the Joint Scrutiny Panel”) in order to provide accountability for the LGR Portfolio and those charged with delivering it.
- 1.3 The Joint Scrutiny Panel is established to provide cross-council, non-executive and non-decision-making scrutiny of the process for LGR across Gloucestershire, including the arrangements for governance, decision-making, finance, engagement, evidence and transparency.
- 1.4 The Joint Scrutiny Panel is set up by Cheltenham Borough Council as a Scrutiny Task Group (STG) in accordance with Part 4D para 2.8 of Cheltenham Borough Council’s Constitution.
- 1.5 Members of the Joint Scrutiny Panel are requested to review and agree the terms of reference for the operation and conduct of the Joint Scrutiny Panel at the first meeting of the Panel on 22 July 2026.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 To ensure the smooth running of the Joint Scrutiny Panel

3. Alternative options considered

- 3.1 The draft terms of reference are attached and members of the Panel can agree these terms as drafted or consider any reasonable amendments to the terms of reference as drafted.

4. Consultation and feedback

- 4.1 The draft terms of reference have been drafted in consultation with members of the LGR Legal & Governance Programme Board

Report author	Contact officer: Alison McKane, Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer, alison.mckane@cheltenham.gov.uk
Appendices	1. Draft Terms of Reference
Background information	None