



# Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

Liss Parish Annual Meeting 2025

# Clarification



Two elements

- a) Devolution (Hampshire and IOW Mayor)
- b) Local Government Reform

Devolution – the creation of a combined authority (Mayoral County Combined Authority (MCCA))

Local Government Reform – will see Hampshire County Council, EHDC and all other District/Borough councils in Hampshire dissolved and the creation of a fewer number of new unitary councils

# Disclaimer

Everything you will hear tonight in this presentation is correct as of 9 am this morning.

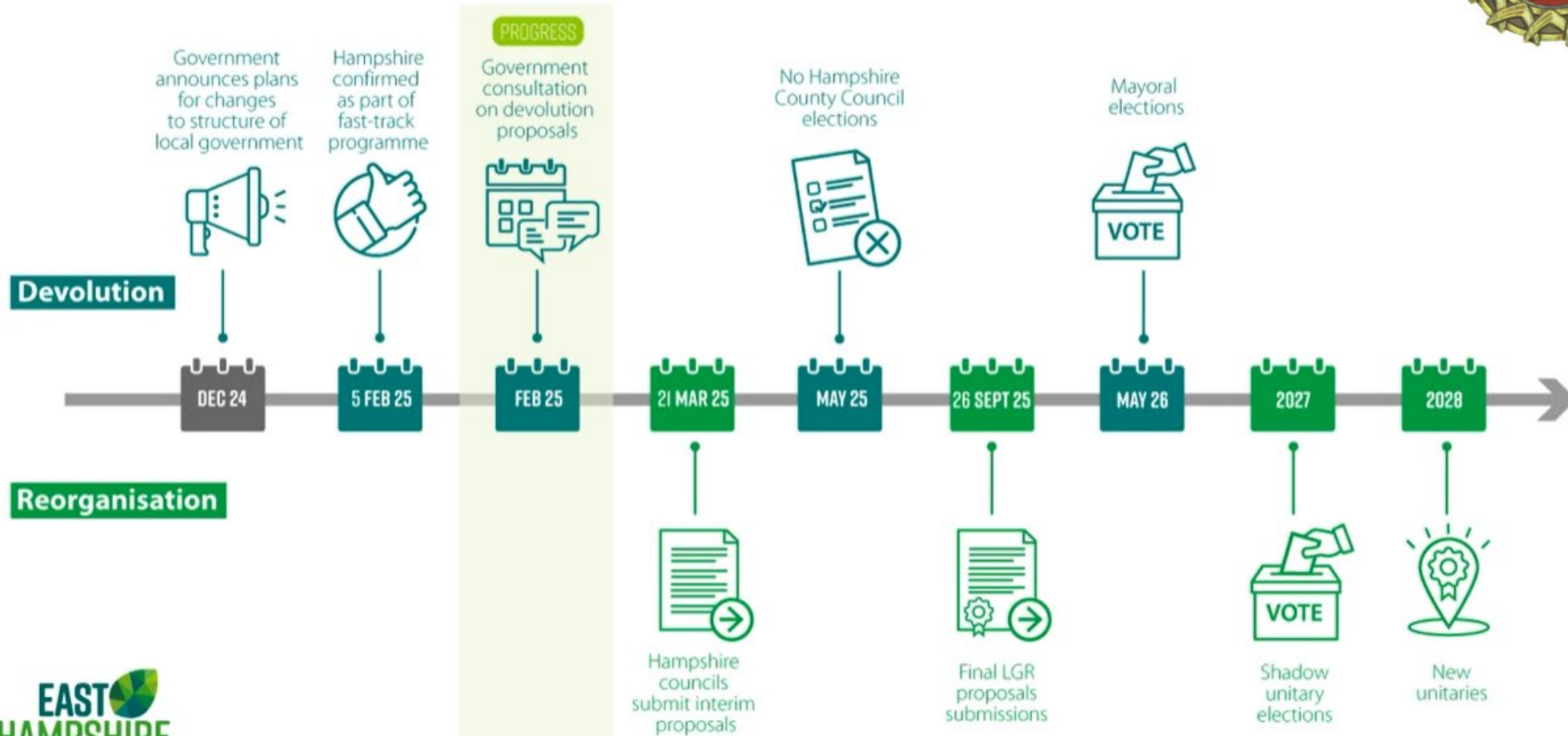
Many things though, particularly in the Local Government Reform section are still subject to clarification and negotiation and so may well change between now and the date they become effective.



# Timeline



## DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – KEY DATES



# Devolution

Election of a Mayor for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight  
(may be called the Mayor of Hampshire and the Solent?) on 8<sup>th</sup> May  
2026



# Devolution



Election of a Mayor for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight  
(may be called the Hampshire and Solent Mayor?) on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Set up the Mayoral County Combined Authority

# Mayoral County Combined Authority



Mayor

Leader of Hampshire County Council

Leader of Southampton City Council (Unitary Authority)

Leader of Portsmouth City Council (Unitary Authority)

Leader of Isle of Wight Unitary Authority

Representative from the Police Authority

Representative from the Fire Authority

# Mayoral County Combined Authority



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Maximum of 3 non-voting seats expected to go to Leaders of Districts/Boroughs



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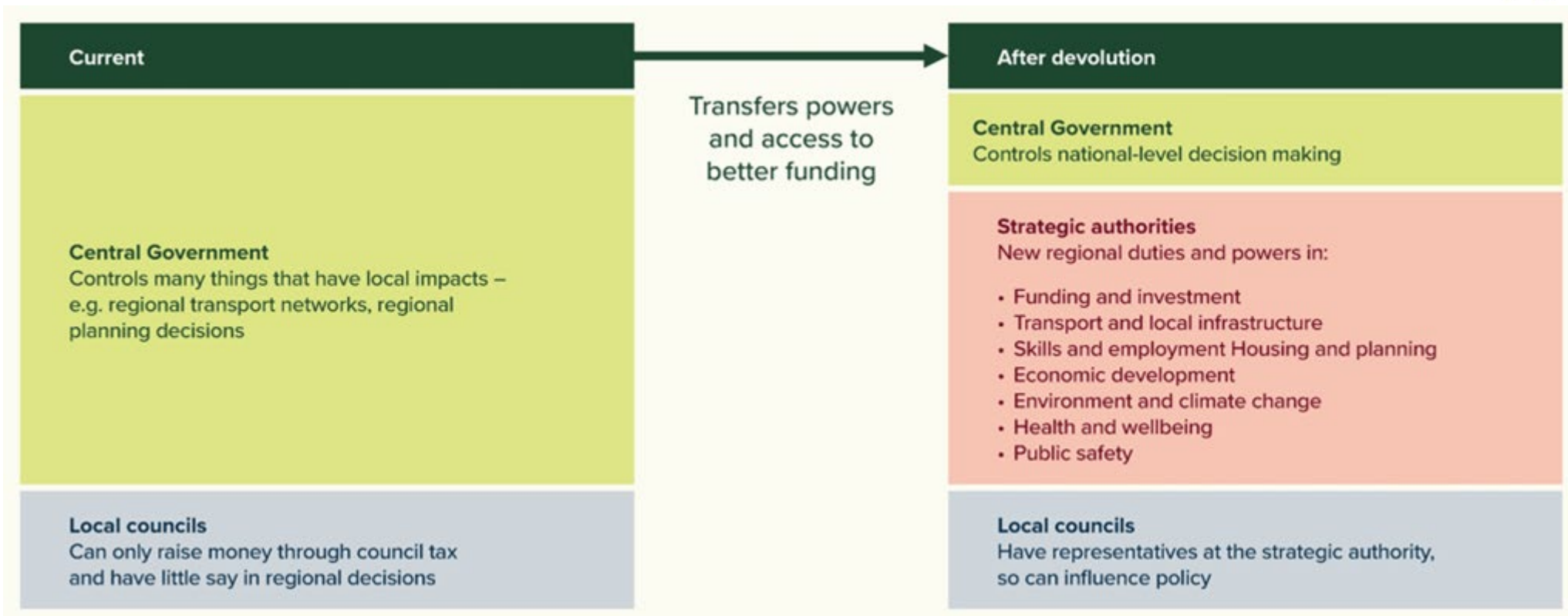
Leader of Isle of Wight Unitary Authority

Representative from the Police Authority

Representative from the Fire Authority

Maximum of 3 non-voting seats expected to go to Leaders of Districts/Boroughs (**but currently 10 Districts and Boroughs**)

# What will the Mayor have power over?



# Mayoral Impact



Mayor will take over the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Mayor will chair the Mayoral County Combined Authority

Mayor will have a seat on the Council of the Nations and Regions, where they will sit with the Prime Minister, First Ministers of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the other regional Mayors. The Council will be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister.

# Recap on Devolution



Mayor

Mayoral County Combined Authority

(both expected to hit the ground running in May 2026)

Should bring, more control locally and away from Westminster

Increased funding opportunities

Increased commercial investment too

County wide strategies for things like housing and transport

Any questions?



# Local Government Reform

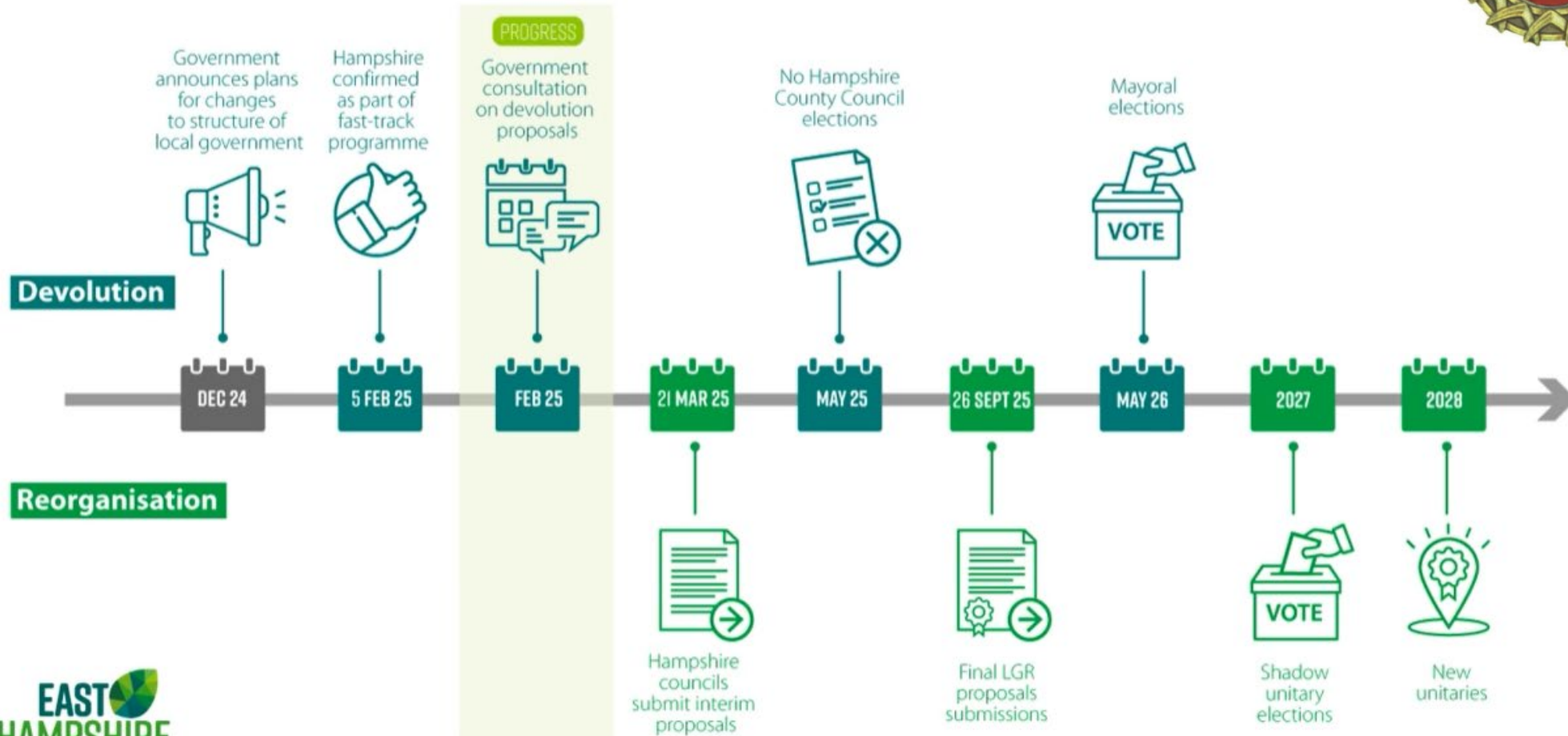
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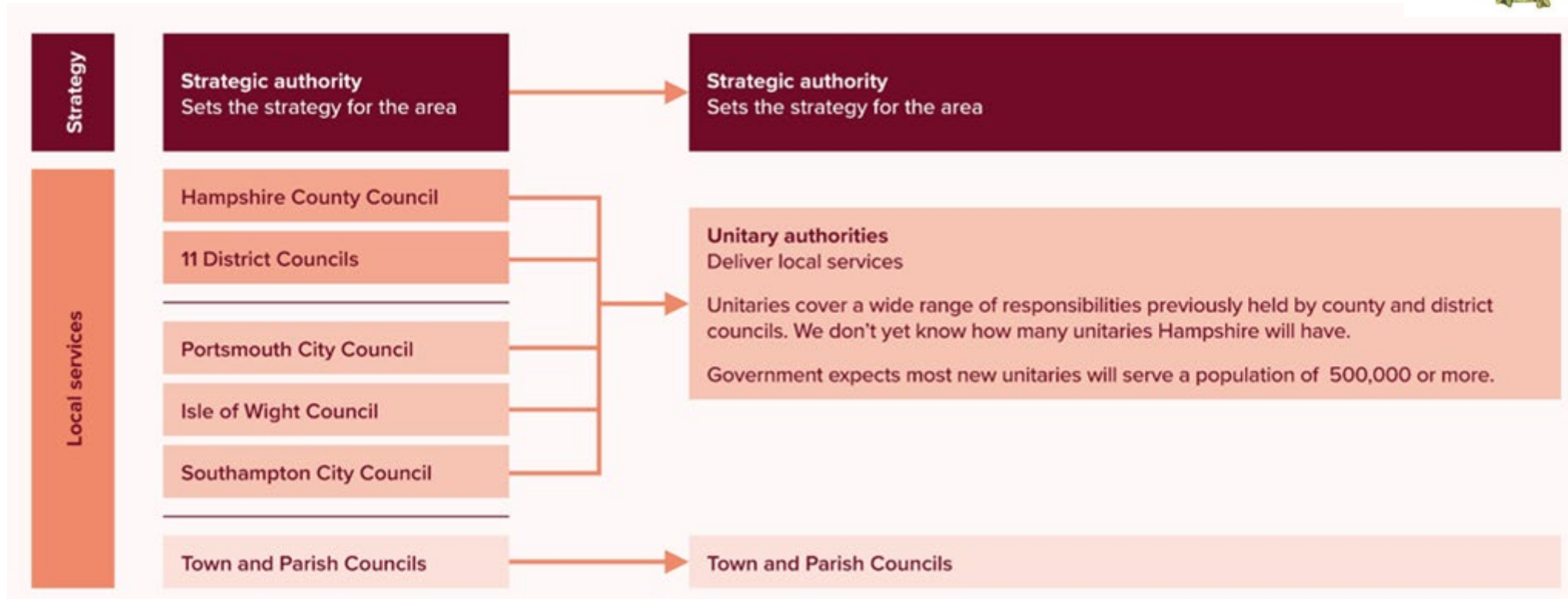
# Timeline



## DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – KEY DATES



# What will it look like?





# Why do it?

It's the only way all areas get representation on the  
Mayoral County Combined Authority

It should result in more efficient decision making

It should result in long-term cash savings



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It's the only way all areas get representation on the Mayoral County Combined Authority

It should result in more efficient decision making

It should result in long-term cash savings – **but let's be in no doubt, short term (5 years at least) it will cost more money**



# So where will the money come from?



**You and me!**

Government have said there will be no extra Central Government funding for the creation of Unitaries (apart from £1m - £2m they have given each county to cover costs of public consultation etc).

# How many unitaries?



The Isle of Wight will remain as it's own unitary.

For mainland Hampshire, it could be as few as two, (Solent region (Portsmouth, Havant, Gosport, Fareham and Southampton)) and "North Hampshire" – New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester, Basingstoke, Hart, Rushmoor and East Hampshire

or it could be as many as four

(current legislation only allows full boroughs/districts to be combined and they must share a common border)

# How many unitaries?

Current options for East Hampshire look like being:

East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor and Basingstoke

Or

East Hampshire, Winchester, Test Valley and New Forest



# How many unitaries?



However, if, as some Councils (Portsmouth and Southampton in particular) are pushing for, the Government relents and allows existing Boroughs and Districts to be partitioned, then there could be as many as 40 options!!

As an example, Portsmouth and Havant would love to absorb Rowlands Castle, Horndean, Clanfield and Catherington from East Hampshire.

# How will councillors work?



Based on current HCC wards (so for us that would mean Petersfield Hangers currently represented by Russell Oppenheimer) but instead of 1 County Councillor and 8 District Councillors we would have 3 Unitary Councillors

# Recap on Local Government Reform

New unitary authorities (exact make up to be decided)

3 councillors





Any questions?



# How will it effect Liss Parish Council?



Instead of dealing with EHDC and HCC we will now have to deal with our new Unitary council/councillors and we need a voice to ensure we are heard by the Mayor

There will be opportunities for us to take on services/assets currently provided by / owned by EHDC (**but**) do we have the staff and financial resources to do them/run them?

We will probably become more important as the interface between the public and the Unitary council.

There may be opportunities for Parish Councils to “cluster” to make more efficient use of resources

Any questions?

