



# Local Government Reorganisation

Princess Theatre 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

# Welcome

Cllr David Thomas  
Leader of Torbay Council



Matthew Fairclough-Kay  
Deputy Chief Executive

# Tonight

- What has Government have asked us to do?
- Potential options
- Break (20 minutes)
- Your questions answered

An aerial photograph of Torbay, Devon, showing a coastal town, a large bay, and surrounding green fields. The text "What has Government asked us to do?" is overlaid in white on the image.

# What has Government asked us to do?



## **By 21 March 2025**

An interim plan:

- Our progress in developing proposals
- Identify likely options for the size and boundaries of new councils
- Options do not commit the council at this stage

## **By 28 November 2025**

A full business case based on significant engagement and strong financial modelling



# Statutory invitation letter - Key points

Summarising the broad approach to LGR set out in the letter

**Letter to leaders of all councils in two-tier areas, districts and counties, and neighbouring unitaries**

**Leaders to work together to develop a proposal that best meets local needs**

**Clear aspiration that there will be one agreed proposal for each area**

**Where this is not possible, Government will consider any suitable proposals submitted**

# Key points for November's deadline



We can make our own proposal or make one jointly with any of the other authorities



Seek to achieve a single tier of local government for the whole area



Should cover a sensible economic areas, with an appropriate tax base



Should cover a sensible geography which will help to increase housing supply and meet local needs



Supported by robust evidence and analysis



Plans should aim for a population of 500,000 or more



Existing district areas should be considered the building blocks for proposals



Should be backed up by robust financial data with areas managing transition costs



Consider the impact for social care, children's services, public safety, SEND and homelessness



# The County of Devon



# KEY STATS - Devon's makeup

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598 elected councillors

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2 unitary councils

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1 upper tier county council

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8 lower tier district councils

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359 town and parish councils

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# Population size 2024 (ONS) of upper tier councils

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Devon County Council 838,000

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Plymouth City Council 268,000

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Torbay Council 139,000

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# Boundaries

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13 Parliamentary Constituencies

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1 Devon and Cornwall Police Force

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1 Devon and Somerset Fire Authority

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1 Integrated Care Board with 5 Local Care Partnerships

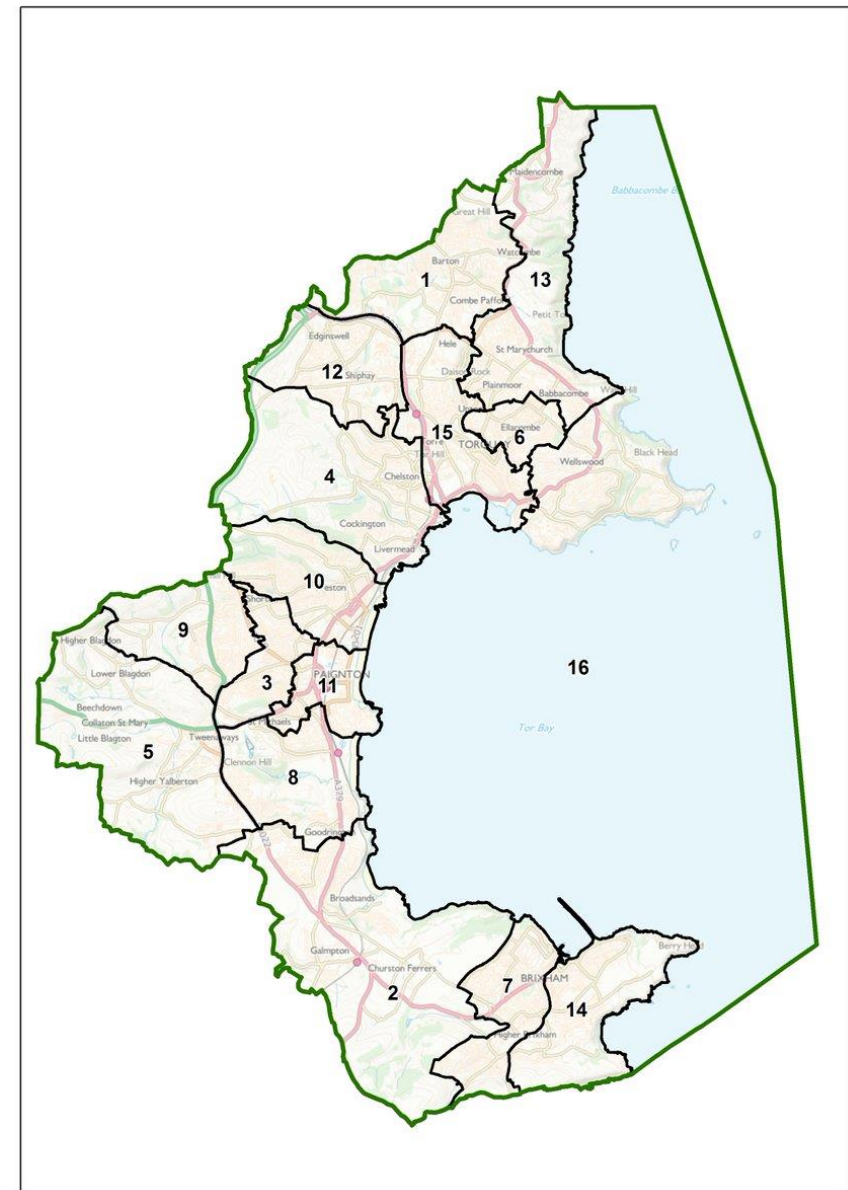
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# Options for Local Government Reorganisation

# Could we stay the same?

- Population of 139,300
- Children's Services rated Good by Ofsted
- Groundbreaking health and social care partnership with the NHS
- Secure financial position



# Could we mirror the same locations as health?

- Population of approximately 292,000
- South Local Care Partnership – catchment area for Torbay Hospital
- Broadly the catchment area for South Devon College



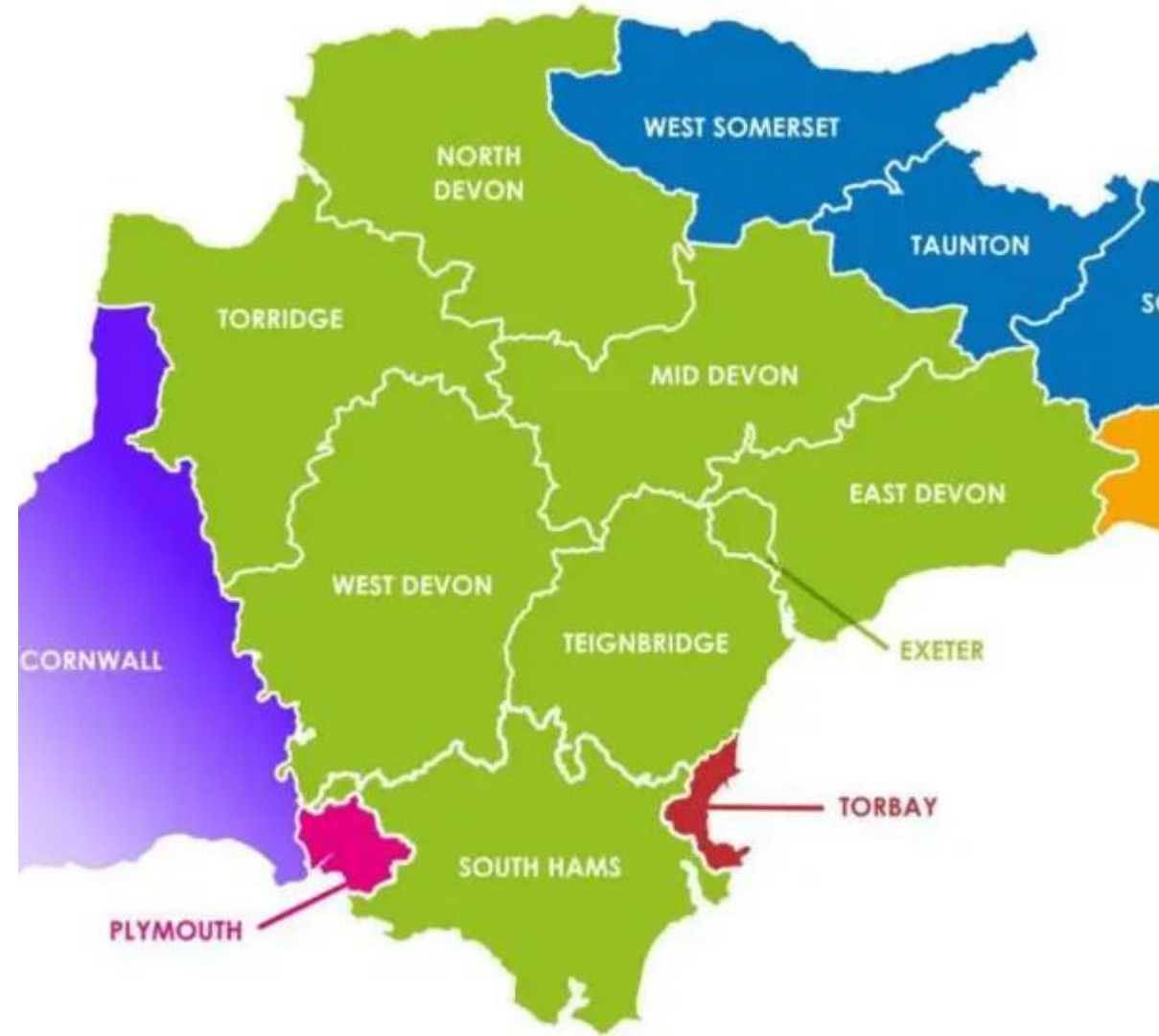
# Could Torbay join up with West Devon, South Hams, and Teignbridge?

- Population of approximately 430,000



# Could we be part of a single Devon Council (with or without Plymouth)?

- Population of 1,215,600 (including Plymouth)
- Population of 950,900 (excluding Plymouth)





# Who are we engaging with?



# Engagement on interim proposal

- Stakeholders
  - You – partners/community groups/residents
  - MPs
  - Place Leadership Board including the Police and Crime Commissioner, South Devon College, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
- Local Councillors in Devon
  - Torbay
  - Leaders of the County Council, Plymouth City Council and 8 Districts

# Engagement and consultation post 21 March 2025

- Detailed plan to be developed:
  - Engagement on development of final proposal
  - Consultation on final proposal



# Next Steps

- Collate feedback from this session
- Collate feedback from other engagement
- Cabinet to agree interim plan on 18 March
- Receive feedback from MHCLG in April
- Plan through to November submission

# Questions

- Complete the card and hand it to a member of staff
- We'll answer as many as we can and create a set of Frequently Asked Questions online

## Card 1

**TORBAY COUNCIL**

Having heard the presentation, what further questions would you like answering?

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We'll keep you updated on work towards local government reorganisation through our weekly email bulletin.  
Sign up at [www.torbay.gov.uk/onetorbay](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/onetorbay)



**20 minute interval**



# Questions & Answers



# Your thoughts

- Complete the card and hand it to a member of staff
- Please indicate your 1st and 2nd preference

## Card 2

Having heard the presentation and the answers to questions, of the options under consideration please indicate which is your first and second preference:

- Torbay Council's boundaries remain the same
- A new unitary authority covering Torbay, approx. half of South Hams and most of Teignbridge (i.e. covering the South Local Care Partnership of the NHS)
- The 1:4:5 Option - A new unitary authority covering the areas of Torbay, South Hams, West Devon and Teignbridge, plus a new unitary authority in the east and north of Devon and Plymouth remaining as is (or with a slightly enlarged border)
- A single unitary authority covering all of Devon (either with or without Plymouth)

[www.torbay.gov.uk/onetorbay](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/onetorbay)

**Thank you &  
keep in touch**

