

Councils could continue to look at the options for the future of local government in Hampshire until March, making 2025 the final elections for the existing Councils. If needed, senior officers can review initial proposals during the election period with informal discussions with civil servants. Councillors will then have from May to September to review the viable options before submitting the final proposal(s) to Government.

In 2026 the election of the new Mayor is due to take place. The role of Mayor is an important one and that election, especially being the first one, should not be overshadowed by elections to soon to be dissolved Councils. This will leave 2027 clear for the new unitary elections to take place.

The decision to suspend normal democratic processes should never be taken lightly. Democracy should never be considered something getting in the way of politics, but the foundation stone on which our politics is built. The Government should be setting a very high test for removing peoples chance to choose their representative. I do not believe Hampshire County Council meets that test.

Yours sincerely,



Gavin James