

## Four Lancashire

Rooted in communities,  
kickstarting economic growth

Transforming public services through four unitary councils for Lancashire

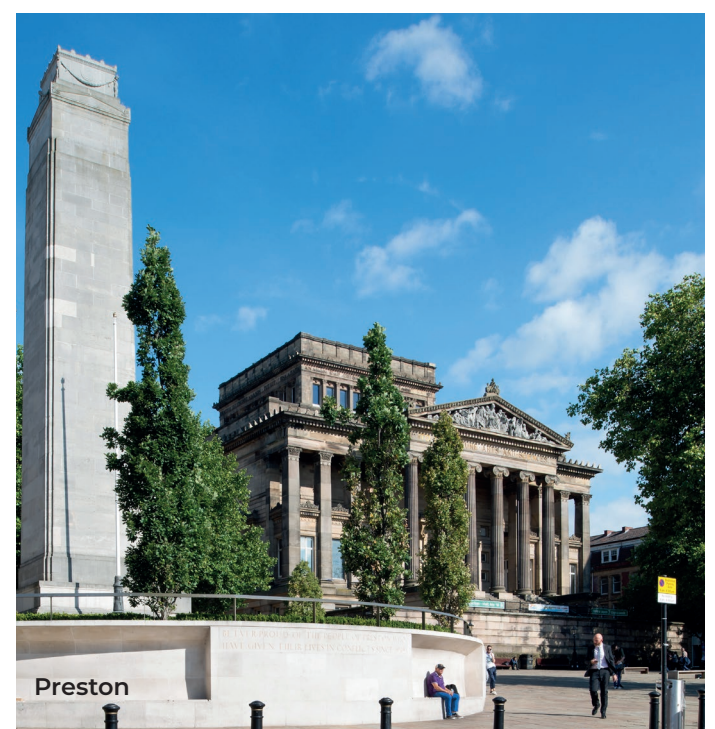




Chorley



Lancaster



Preston



Clitheroe



Leyland



Burscough

Local Government Reorganisation is about making Lancashire stronger, fairer and ready for the future

That includes Lancashire, where the 12 district, county council and two unitary councils will cease to exist and will be replaced by new councils

Four Lancashire is a proposal for four unitary councils that will be strong and financially sustainable while they kickstart economic growth and transform public services

This model delivers simpler, stronger, accountable councils, designed to be closely connected to communities

It aligns with Lancashire's four economic corridors, strengthening links with neighbouring regions, unlocking investment, and driving growth

Four strong councils will work together through a strong Mayoral Strategic Authority that brings decision making, powers and funding to Lancashire

The new councils will be large enough to deliver financial resilience, but small enough to stay rooted in local communities

With six councils already backing this proposal, Four Lancashire is the most balanced, widely supported and future ready approach

It is a strong platform for economic prosperity and is ambitious in reshaping public services

# Transforming public services through four unitary councils for Lancashire

The Government has set out its ambition to change the way that local councils are currently organised.

To deliver real change, Lancashire needs the right model of local government reorganisation. Transformed local government, with simpler and more accountable structures will unlock Lancashire's potential. It will drive regional and economic growth and deliver a step change in public services so that our residents and communities are well-served by high quality and responsive services.

The Government has said that any new unitary authority must be able to demonstrate:

- Stronger local leadership
- Improved service delivery and outcomes
- Value for money and financial sustainability
- Economic growth and prosperity
- Community identity and effective local partnerships

Lancashire's 15 councils are currently working together to submit a proposal to Government by 28 November 2025. Several options are being developed.



# Transforming public services and driving economic growth

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) sets out to simplify the current two-tier system in Lancashire, replacing the existing 15 authorities with fewer, larger unitary councils.

The ambition is to create empowered new authorities, ensuring they remain close to local communities. We believe creating four new unitary authorities for Lancashire is the most balanced and sustainable solution.

It is the most widely supported option and creates councils that are large enough to be financially resilient, but small enough to stay rooted in real communities, reflecting the local identity people value.

This model aligns with Lancashire's four economic corridors, strengthening links with neighbouring regions, unlocking investment, and driving growth.

The four councils will work together through a Mayoral Strategic Authority, bringing decision making, powers and funding to Lancashire, working seamlessly across the whole area and developing stronger ties to neighbouring regions.



# Four unitary councils, working together for Lancashire

## Fylde Coast

Population: 348,400

Tourism, farming and coastal and market towns, an internationally recognised destination. The Fylde Coast is a self-contained economic footprint and home to significant assets for tourism, AI innovation, defence, and strong rural communities.

## North Lancashire

Population: 373,664

Including two university cities leading the way in innovation and research connected on the M6 and A6, rich in heritage and national landscapes from Arnsdale and Silverdale to the Forest of Bowland. Strong links to Westmorland and Furness in areas such as energy, carbon capture and storage.

## South Lancashire

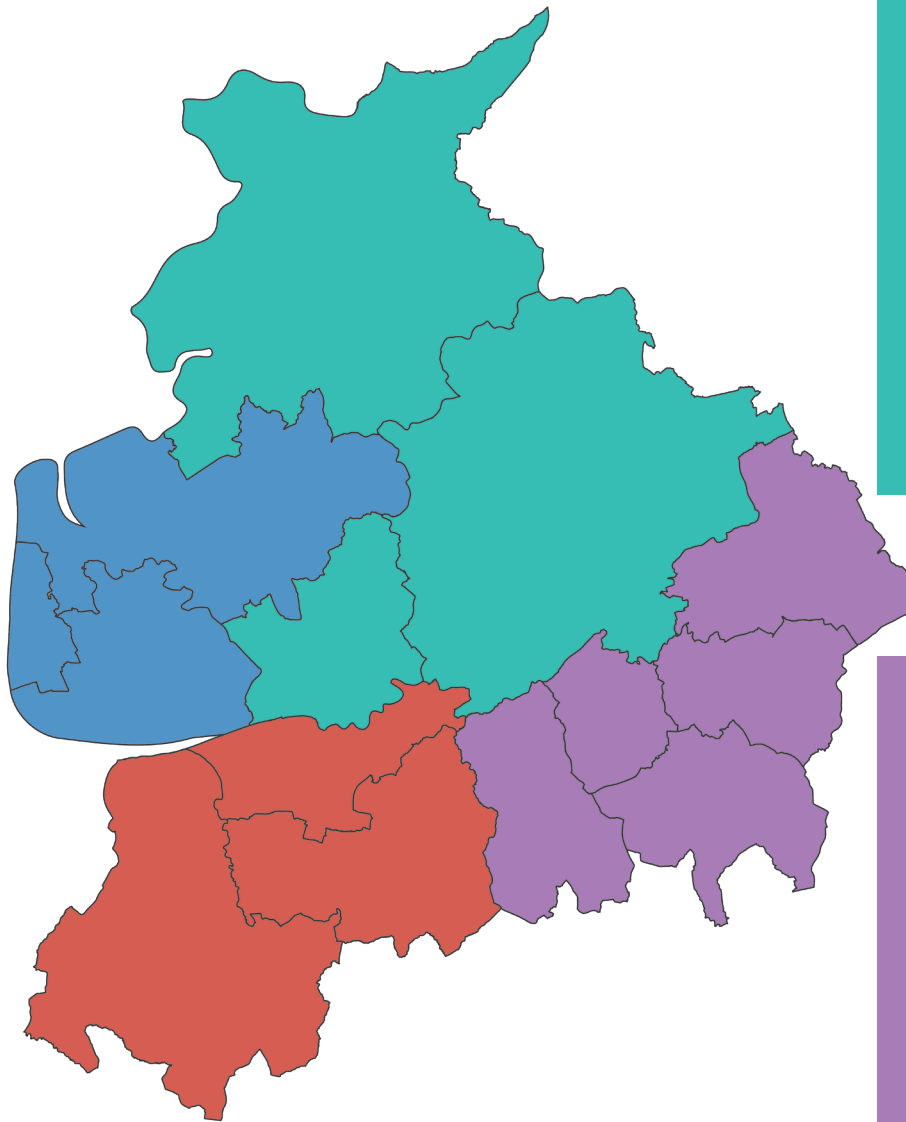
Population: 359,000

A hub of connectivity and home to global manufacturing, set amongst a network of vibrant communities, historic market towns, and villages. Transport links to neighbouring city regions of Liverpool and Manchester allowing more people to call South Lancashire home. An area of strong and sustained growth with diverse industries from farming and rural enterprise to advanced manufacturing.

## Pennine Lancashire

Population: 520,700

A manufacturing powerhouse, transforming industrial heritage into modern manufacturing. A rich tapestry of towns and communities, linking into Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire to drive regional economic growth.



# Why are four councils the right answer for Lancashire?

1

## **Financial sustainability**

The financial modelling shows that even with an extremely prudent approach we can expect to save £80 million annually once we have transformed services. This includes additional resources to transform adult and children's social care safely.

2

## **Logical and deliverable**

Built on existing district boundaries, the configuration makes sense, creating four councils that are comparable in size to other unitaries across England.

3

## **Economic growth and strategic influence**

The four new councils will work together to encourage regional growth, as well as more effective working through a Mayoral Strategic Authority.

4

## **Community focused**

Consultation has shown that people are strongly protective of their local identity and value decisions being made close to home. The Four Lancashire model keeps local communities at the heart of decision making, ensuring that governance remains rooted in the places that people live and care about.



