

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION



Decision taken by individual Cabinet member

(All sections must be completed (mark "N/A" as applicable))

DECISION MAKER (Name and designation)

Councillor Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council

DECISION AND THE REASON(S) FOR IT

The decision is to submit the Council's response to the Government regarding the potential postponement of the May 2026 local elections in the context of Local Government Reorganisation. This includes a letter from the Leader of the Council to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution setting out the Council's position.

The Government has invited councils to provide views on whether delaying the scheduled elections would assist with capacity to deliver reorganisation. Having considered the Council's operational readiness and democratic responsibilities, the Leader has determined that Rushmoor Borough Council does not support any postponement of the May 2026 local elections.

The reasons for this decision are:

- The Council supports the Government's objective to establish sustainable local government structures through reorganisation.
- The Council has no concerns regarding its capacity to deliver both Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) activity and the safe and effective administration of elections.
- The Council has a skilled and experienced elections team, supported by a wider group of trained election officials, with a strong track record of delivering elections.
- Proceeding with elections as scheduled is important to maintaining democratic accountability and public confidence during a period of structural change.
- The Leader's position is supported by other political group leaders within the Council.

DATE DECISION TAKEN

15 January 2026

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

(Those examined by officers and generated by consultation, etc)

The Leader consulted with senior officers and relevant portfolio holders in making this decision. The alternative options were to:

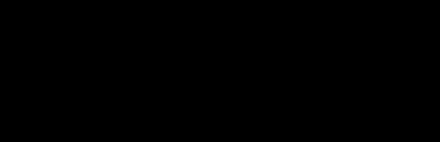
1. Ask for a postponement. As the Council is fully capable of delivering LGR activities and elections, and given the importance of democratic accountability and public confidence, this approach was deemed inappropriate.

2. Not respond to the consultation. Given the potential impact on local governance and service delivery, this was not considered appropriate.

ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

(conflict of interests of any executive member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).

N/A

Signed  _____
(Decision maker)

Designation: Leader of the Council



Contact: policy@rushmoor.gov.uk
Date: 15 January 2026

Alison McGovern, MP
Minister for Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities
and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

Dear Minister,

Local Government Reorganisation and 2026 Local Elections

I am writing on behalf of Rushmoor Borough Council in response to your recent letter to council leaders regarding local government reorganisation and the potential implications for local elections scheduled for May 2026.

The Council supports the Government's objective to establish new, sustainable local government structures that are capable of delivering effective services and strong local accountability. We welcome the Government's commitment to an indicative timetable for reorganisation and look forward to the forthcoming ministerial decisions. We are also grateful for the Minister's recognition of the importance of a locally led approach in shaping these reforms.

In considering the specific question of election postponement, Rushmoor Borough Council has capacity to deliver both Local Government Reorganisation activity and the safe, effective administration of elections. The Council has a skilled and experienced elections team, supported by a wider group of trained election officials, with a strong track record of delivering well-run elections and we are confident in our ability to proceed as planned.

We consider that maintaining the scheduled elections is important for democratic accountability and public confidence, particularly during a period of significant structural change. On balance, therefore, the Council does not believe there is a need to postpone our May 2026 Borough elections. This position reflects the view of myself and is supported by other political group leaders within the Council.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Gareth Williams
Leader of the Council
Rushmoor Borough Council