Summary of Key Dates for the Welsh Government’s Reforming Local Government Programme:

Aug/Sept 2014  WG Stakeholder Events on Reforming Local Government White Paper & Minister meeting with Leaders around Wales

September 2014  WG publishes Voluntary Merger Prospectus

1 October 2014  Reforming Local Government White Paper consultation closes

October 2014  Publication of further White Papers covering:
  o Performance, Improvement & Scrutiny
  o Democracy & Community Governance
  o Developing Local Government Finance
  o Staff Commission

Nov/Dec 2014  Initial expressions of interest for voluntary mergers

January 2015  Local Government No.1 Bill – Introduction

30 June 2015  Full business cases for voluntary mergers to be submitted

Autumn 2015  Draft Local Government No.2 Bill – Consultation

November 2015  Local Government No.1 Bill – Royal Assent

Summer 2016  Local Government No.2 Bill – Introduction

June 2017  Local Government No.2 Bill – Royal Assent

Local Government No. 1 Bill (working title - will probably change)
  o To be introduced in the Assembly in January 2015
  o Royal Assent expected in late November 2015, subject to being passed by the Assembly
  o Preparatory work for a programme of mergers:
    o Enabling Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
    o Enabling Independent Remuneration Panel
    o Requiring Local Authorities to prepare by establishing joint committees
      o Preventing activity which would bring financial harm or disrepute to new Local Authorities
  o Enabling voluntary mergers through subordinate legislation voluntary merger orders in early 2016 (prior to end of March 2016)

Local Government No.2 Bill (working title - will probably change)
  o Draft Bill to be published in Autumn 2015
  o Bill then introduced in the next Assembly (late Summer/Early Autumn 2016)
Royal Assent expected in Summer 2017, subject to being passed by the Assembly.

Bill will cover:
- Constitutions and Democracy
- Community Governance
- Performance and Improvement
- Finance
- Public Service Staff Commission
- New (merged) Principal Councils

**Timeline – Voluntary Mergers**

- **September 2014**  
  WG publishes Voluntary Merger Prospectus
- **Nov/Dec 2014**  
  Detailed expressions of interest from Authorities wishing to merge voluntarily
- **June 2015**  
  Fully developed cases for merger from Authorities
- **February 2016**  
  Necessary subordinate legislation for Assembly approval
- **May 2017**  
  No elections to Authorities merging voluntarily (elections to other Authorities)
- **October 2017**  
  Shadow Authorities and shadow Councils established
- **April 2018**  
  Vesting day - new Authorities take over full functions
- **May 2018**  
  First elections to new Authorities

**Timeline – Main Mergers Programme**

- **May 2017**  
  Elections to existing Authorities
- **May 2018**  
  No elections to Authorities merged by Local Government No. 2 Bill or continuing Authorities (elections to Authorities voluntarily merging)
- **May 2019**  
  First elections for the new Authorities
- **May 2019**  
  Shadow Authorities and Shadow Councils established
- **April 2020**  
  Vesting day - new Authorities take over full functions