

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Performance, Improvement & Scrutiny○ Democracy & Community Governance○ Developing Local Government Finance○ 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)*

- To be introduced in the Assembly in January 2015
- Royal Assent expected in late November 2015, subject to being passed by the Assembly
- Preparatory work for a programme of mergers:
 - Enabling Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
 - Enabling Independent Remuneration Panel
 - Requiring Local Authorities to prepare by establishing joint committees
 - Preventing activity which would bring financial harm or disrepute to new Local Authorities
- 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)*

- Draft Bill to be published in Autumn 2015
- 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