

A new unitary council for Buckinghamshire

- On 1 November government announced a **single unitary council for Buckinghamshire**
- This will be a **brand new council** replacing all five councils by 1 April 2020
- The new council will
 - cover the whole of the county area
 - deliver all local government services – both county and district for Buckinghamshire



Where are we so far

- New Council will be called Buckinghamshire Council.
- 147 Members confirmed (boundary commission review likely during first term).
- Elections for new Council to be May 2020 and then May 2025, with 4 year terms thereafter.
- Need to 'have regard' to County Council business case.
- A parliamentary process has started to approve the change and confirm how the change to the new council will take place
 - Shadow Authority
 - Shadow Executive
- A legal challenge has been launched by Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe District Councils. Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council are named as interested parties.

Shadow structure – Governance

Shadow Authority (*like Council*)

- A Shadow Authority will be established to oversee the implementation to the new council.
- All existing county and district members will sit on the Shadow Authority – i.e. 202 members.
- Will undertake specific functions associated with the creation of the new council - setting a budget for the new council.
- Will meet within 14 days of the Order being approved (May/June 2019).

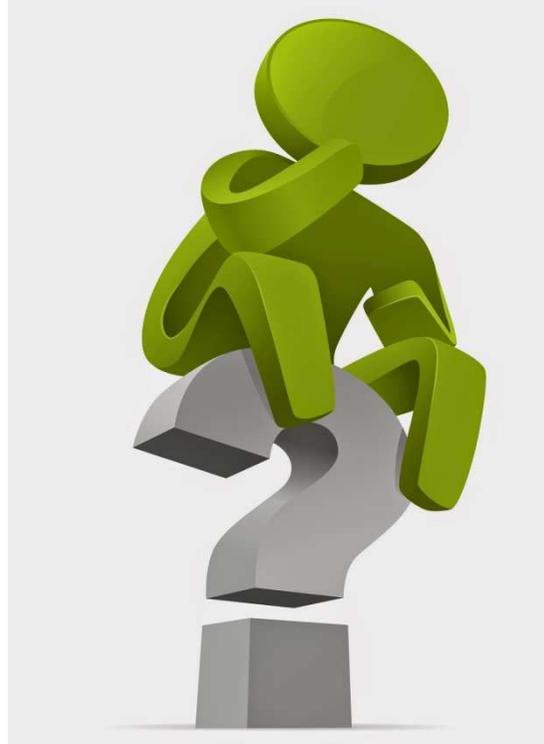
Shadow Executive (*like Cabinet*)

- Will consist of eight District and eight County Council members plus the Leader of the County Council who will chair the group.
- Responsibility will be 'to discharge the functions of the Shadow Authority'.



Key messages

- Great news for Buckinghamshire – an exciting opportunity to improve services for residents, local communities and businesses, make better use of public money and be more local to communities.
- All five existing councils remain responsible for the normal running of the councils until 1 April 2020
- Current services and change programmes must continue
- Don't expect things to change immediately – this is a big change that will take time, the priority will be to make sure services continue as normal.
- Our staff are important. All staff from the county and district councils will bring valuable knowledge and experience to the transition phase and the new council.
- Need to ensure we bring the best of each council into the new organisation recognising the strengths and capabilities of individual councils.
- The priority will be on creating the new council, transformation of services will come after 1 April.



Any Questions?