

**Shadow Executive
3 December 2019
Members Questions**

Cllr Stuchbury

Question

The future of democratic processes

With the launch of another General Election campaign, the Electoral Services teams in our four District Councils are once again working very hard - and we should all take this chance to recognise the amazing work that they do. They have a busy six months ahead, with elections to the new unitary authority and parish councils next May, plus the election of the Police and Crimes Commissioner at the same time. By then, the District Councils will have ceased to exist and there will no longer be any reason to divide our 5 parliamentary constituencies and 149 divisions up between these four offices.

How does the Shadow Executive expect the electoral services function in Buckinghamshire to be structured after May 2020 and what steps are they taking to ensure Buckinghamshire residents will continue to have full access to the services they need to express their democratic voice in future elections and by-elections?

Response

All staff in the five councils will transfer to the new council in their current roles. As senior managers are appointed, they will work with teams to design their future operating models. In the case of electoral services, a key priority for the next six months is to ensure continuity so that the teams are able to support the successful delivery of the May elections. The individual electoral services teams are already working together very effectively to achieve this.