

Member update from Cllr Paul Marshall, Leader of West Sussex County Council

Survey launching to support Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposals

01 July 2025

As part of the work to explore Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in our area, a countywide survey for residents, local organisations and businesses will be launched during the second half of July. This engagement is a key step in understanding what matters most to our communities and how we can shape the future of local government around their needs.

From 1 July, you will start to see social media content on our channels to inform the public about the coming survey and to let them know where they can read more about the process. We would appreciate your support in sharing and promoting the survey. When the survey is live, we will share the link with you so that you can complete the questions and encourage your contacts to do the same.

Please feel free to use or adapt the following messages when speaking with residents or on your channels.

Key lines

Background: Why LGR?

The government has asked councils across the area to submit plans for moving to a unitary model – replacing the current two-tier structure with new unitary councils responsible for all local services. Further information is available [here](#)

This change is about:

- Simplifying access to services
- The opportunity to create a new council model designed around the needs of today's communities

All councils in the county are working together to develop proposals for this new model. Business cases must be submitted to government by **26 September 2025**, with a **government decision expected in spring 2026**.

About the survey

The survey asks residents, and local organisations for:

- Their views on the area they live in
- Which local council services they use and value most
- What priorities they believe the future council should focus on
- What their initial reactions are to the options under consideration

We are also asking our staff to participate in the survey as they are all affected directly as employees and for many also as residents.

Key messages for residents

Change is coming, and this is your chance to help shape it.

The survey will help us design a new council model that reflects what people value and expect from local services.

Vital services will continue under the new model, and this is an opportunity to make sure they are delivered in a way that really works for local people and communities.

There will be further opportunities to have a say once government makes a decision in 2026, but this early input is essential to get the foundations right.

This is a vital opportunity for residents to shape the thinking behind the new model. Their feedback will help inform the options we put forward and ensure proposals reflect the voices of those who use and rely on local services every day.

Next steps

Survey link: we will share the survey link as soon as it goes live - 21 July-10 August

Business case submission: Councils to submit recommendations to government **by 26 September 2025** (more info on local webpages).

Government decision: Expected in spring 2026.

Further engagement: Will follow in line with the chosen model and implementation planning.

Your Role

We encourage all councillors to:

- Promote the survey through community networks, newsletters, events, and social media
- Encourage participation from groups who may not usually engage in consultations
- Feedback any insights or common themes from your residents

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to influence how local government is designed and delivered. With your support, we can make sure residents are at the heart of that process.

If you have any questions or would like additional materials, please contact LGRQuestions@horsham.gov.uk