

Shaping West Sussex

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The future of local
government in *West Sussex*



Public engagement survey

For West Sussex residents or individuals who work in the county.

To be completed by 13 August 2025



1. Which district or borough council area do you live (and/or mainly work in)?

We are asking this to make sure each area is represented. You can check your area by typing in your postcode at: www.gov.uk/find-local-council

- ☐ Adur District Council
- ☐ Arun District Council
- ☐ Chichester District Council
- ☐ Crawley Borough Council
- ☐ Horsham District Council
- ☐ Mid-Sussex District Council
- ☐ Worthing Borough Council

2. Which aspect of your local area do you most strongly identify with?

- ☐ **The type of area** (please select)
 - ☐ Rural
 - ☐ Semi-rural
 - ☐ Urban
 - ☐ Coastal
- ☐ **Your district or borough area**
- ☐ **A neighbouring district or borough area** (please specify which)
- ☐ **The county as a whole**

3. Where do you go for most of your leisure or recreation time

☐ Your nearest village, town or city (please specify which)

☐ A village, town or city further away (please specify which)

4. How would you best describe your connection to where you live?

This is about your emotional and personal connection to where you live, whether that's your village, town, district, or county.

☐ **very strong:** You feel a deep connection and pride in your local area. You might be very involved in community activities and feel a strong sense of belonging.

☐ **somewhat strong:** You have a moderate connection to your local area. You might participate in some community activities and feel a reasonable sense of belonging.

☐ **not very strong:** You don't feel a significant connection to your local area. You might not be very involved in community activities and don't feel a strong sense of belonging.

5. Can you tell us the area or place in West Sussex that you feel the strongest connection with?

6. How much do you know about the changes to local councils (called Local Government Reorganisation)?

☐ I understand it well

☐ I understand it a little bit

☐ I've heard about it, but don't really understand it

☐ I didn't know anything about it until now

7. Council services will continue, no matter what the local government structure looks like. Here is a list of some of the things that your local councils currently provide. Which do you feel matter most to you? (select up to 5)

☐ Adult social care

☐ Children's services (such as looked-after children, those with special educational needs or disability, fostering or adoption)

☐ Communities (such as public events, activities for young people or families)

☐ Council Tax collections

☐ Economic development (such as support for local businesses, grant funding, supporting local attractions, tourism - encouraging visitors)

☐ Education (such as school admissions, transport, special educational need provision)

☐ Environmental health and licensing (such as food safety inspections, licences for businesses such as taxis and alcohol, getting rid of pests)

☐ Housing and homeless prevention

☐ Leisure, sports and cultural facilities (such as leisure centres, theatres, museums)

☐ Libraries

☐ Official functions (such as registering a birth, death or marriage and running elections)

☐ Parks and green spaces

☐ Planning and development (such as planning applications, planning enforcement, building control/safety, protecting old buildings, local development plans, affordable housing)

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- ☐ Public health (such as drug or alcohol dependency support, sexual health services, health improvement programmes)
- ☐ Public safety
- ☐ Trading standards
- ☐ Transport and infrastructure (such as local road repairs, pavement/footpath repairs, streetlights)
- ☐ Waste and recycling (such as collections and street cleansing)
- ☐ Waste management (recycling centres and waste processing)

8. How often do you interact directly with your current councils: both the County Council and your District or Borough Council?

- ☐ **Regularly** (perhaps more than once a month): You engage with your local council frequently, such as attending council meetings, using their services, or participating in community events more than once a month
- ☐ **Occasionally** (a few times a year): You engage with your local council a few times throughout the year. This might include attending occasional meetings or using services a few times a year
- ☐ **Rarely** (once a year or less): You engage with local council very infrequently, perhaps only once a year or even less. This might include minimal interaction with their services or attending very few events

9. How far do you usually travel to access the local services that are most important to you? (Think about services like healthcare, libraries, leisure centres, council offices, or waste and recycling facilities.)

Please select the option that best describes your typical travel distance:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 mile | <input type="checkbox"/> 1–3 miles | <input type="checkbox"/> 4–6 miles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7–10 miles | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 miles | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't use local services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure | | |

10. What is your main mode of transport when accessing these services? (Select all that apply)

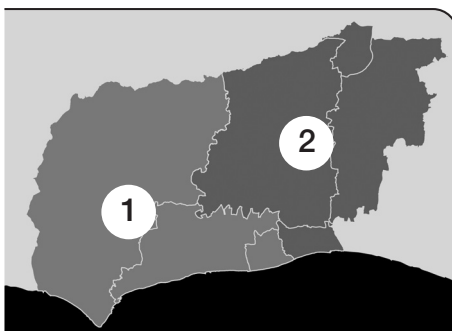
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle | <input type="checkbox"/> Public transport (bus, train) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car (as driver) | <input type="checkbox"/> Car (as passenger) | <input type="checkbox"/> Taxi or community transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable | |

As explained on our Shaping West Sussex hub, Local Government Reorganisation for West Sussex means that the county, district and borough councils will be replaced with one, or more than one, single-tier council (referred to as a unitary council) to deliver all your services. Options currently being explored within West Sussex are detailed on our hub at www.shapingwestsussex.org, but map visuals can be found on the following page.



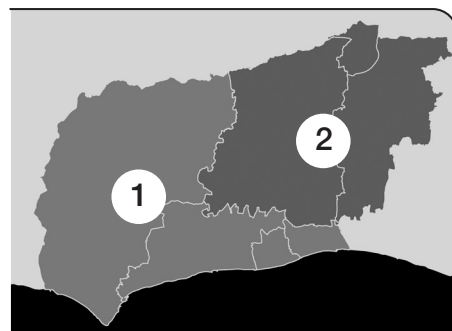
Single unitary model

One unitary for the whole of West Sussex



Two unitary model - variation 1

One unitary combining Arun, Chichester and Worthing footprints (1) and one unitary combining Adur, Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex footprints (2)



Two unitary model - variation 2

One unitary combining Adur, Arun, Chichester and Worthing footprints (1) and one unitary combining Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex footprints (2)

11. Based on what you know about Local Government Reorganisation so far, and the options described, which option do you prefer? Select one of the following

- ☐ I prefer a single unitary model
- ☐ I prefer a two unitary model
- ☐ I have no preference at this stage

Please explain your answer below.

If you prefer a two unitary model, do you prefer

- ☐ A two unitary model – variation 1, one unitary combining Arun, Chichester and Worthing footprints and one unitary combining Adur, Crawley, Horsham, and Mid-Sussex footprints
- ☐ A two unitary model – variation 2, one unitary combining Adur, Arun, Chichester and Worthing footprints and one unitary combining Crawley, Horsham, and Mid-Sussex footprints
- ☐ I have no preference at this stage
- ☐ Reasons for your answer

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12. Share with us what you feel would be the most important things to come out of this reorganisation.

- ☐ Easier and quicker access to council services
- ☐ A clearer understanding of who is responsible for what
- ☐ More joined-up services that work better together
- ☐ Better quality services for residents
- ☐ A stronger sense of local identity and pride
- ☐ More coordinated strategic planning and infrastructure decisions
- ☐ Strengthened community connections and support networks
- ☐ A stronger voice for West Sussex in national decisions

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- ☐ More ways for residents to get involved in shaping services and decision making
 - ☐ More support for the local economy
 - ☐ Other (please tell us)
-

13. What risks do you see in changing how local councils are structured?

- ☐ Services I rely on might be disrupted
 - ☐ The council might change its priorities and focus less on what matters to me
 - ☐ Areas might miss out on specific local focus or understanding of unique identity
 - ☐ More uncertainty about future funding
 - ☐ Bigger organisations might be favoured over smaller, local groups
 - ☐ The cost of making the change might be too high
 - ☐ Some services might be lost altogether
 - ☐ I don't have any concerns
 - ☐ Other (please tell us)
-

14. Council services will continue, no matter what the local government structure looks like. Here is a list of some of the things that your local councils currently provide. Which core services do you think would benefit most from integration or simplification? (select up to 5)

- ☐ Adult social care
- ☐ Children's services (such as looked-after children, those with special educational needs or disability, fostering or adoption)
- ☐ Communities (such as public events, activities for young people or families)
- ☐ Council tax collections
- ☐ Economic development (such as support for local businesses, grant funding, supporting local attractions, tourism - encouraging visitors)
- ☐ Education (such as school admissions, transport, special educational need provision)
- ☐ Environmental health and licensing (food safety inspections, licences for businesses such as taxis and alcohol, getting rid of pests)
- ☐ Housing and homeless prevention
- ☐ Leisure, sports and cultural facilities (such as leisure centres, theatres, museums)
- ☐ Libraries
- ☐ Official functions (such as registering a birth, death or marriage and running elections)
- ☐ Parks and green spaces
- ☐ Planning and development (such as planning applications, planning enforcement, building control/safety, protecting old buildings, local development plans, affordable housing)
- ☐ Public health (such as drug or alcohol dependency support, sexual health services, health improvement programmes)
- ☐ Public safety
- ☐ Trading standards
- ☐ Transport and infrastructure (such as local road repairs, pavement/footpath repairs, streetlights)
- ☐ Waste & recycling collections and street cleansing
- ☐ Waste management (recycling centres and waste processing)

15. Which aspects of Local Government Reorganisation would you like to hear more about?

- ☐ What is the difference between Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation
- ☐ What is local government reorganisation and why it is happening
- ☐ The process and timeline
- ☐ Who will represent me in the future
- ☐ How can I have my say
- ☐ How will services I use be impacted
- ☐ How will local needs be represented in the future
- ☐ What will the financial impact be for the taxpayer
- ☐ How this will benefit me and my community
- ☐ Where can I find more information

16. How would you like to find out more information about Local Government Reorganisation?

- ☐ Public meetings
- ☐ Websites
- ☐ Digital newsletters
- ☐ Printed leaflets or newsletters
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Other (Please specify)

Thank you for completing this survey. We are still quite early in the process of change and will reach out to you again as time goes on. This is a complex subject, and we know you may have questions. We will continue to share as much information as possible on our council websites, your feedback will help us improve this information for you.

Stay informed

Would you like us to keep you informed about progress, if so, please provide the best email address*:

Would you be willing to participate in future discussions or workshops?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

* We will share these details with your local council/s and West Sussex County Council to provide information about Local Government Reorganisation. Your information will be held by the Collaborate platform and used by officers at West Sussex councils and deleted once distributed. You can find links to all relevant privacy statements by visiting **www.shapingwestsussex.org**



Respondent demographic data

We would now like to know a little more about you. This will not identify you as an individual, this survey is anonymous, but any information that you share will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be used only to help us make sure we are getting representation from all areas. Help us to improve our services. You do not have to fill this in, but it will help us if you do.

Which of the following describes you?

- ☐ female
- ☐ male
- ☐ prefer to self-describe
- ☐ prefer not to say
- ☐ Please self-describe here as desired:

What is your age?

- ☐ under 17
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75-84
- ☐ 85 and over
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Do you have an impairment, health condition or learning difference that has a substantial or long-term impact on your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ prefer not to say

If you have answered 'yes', please tick the options below that best describe your impairment. This information helps us improve access and remove barriers to our services.

- ☐ blind or visual impairment
- ☐ deaf or have a hearing impairment
- ☐ a long-standing illness or health condition, for example - cancer, HIV, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic asthma, epilepsy, cardiovascular conditions, sickle cell anaemia, motor neurone disease, some forms of dementia
- ☐ a mental health difficulty, for example - schizophrenia, depression, anxiety disorder, some forms of dementia
- ☐ a physical impairment or mobility issues, for example - walking, dexterity, difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches
- ☐ a social/communication impairment, for example - speech and language impairment or Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
- ☐ a specific learning difficulty, for example - dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D
- ☐ prefer not to say
- ☐ other:

What is your postcode?

Please return this survey to your local library or council office reception by 13 August 2025.

