

Government launches second consultation on local government reorganisation in Sussex

The government has today launched a second phase of consultation on the options for local government reorganisation across Sussex. All councils in West Sussex are working together to ensure our staff, members, residents, businesses, partners and communities are aware of the opportunity to have their say on the modified plans that government have suggested for our area.

What this consultation covers

The second, technical consultation asks for comments on two potential modifications on the proposals already submitted by Sussex local authorities (West Sussex councils recommended a single unitary authority for the whole of West Sussex or two unitary authorities – one comprising of Arun District, Adur District, Chichester District and Worthing Borough areas, and one comprising of Crawley Borough, Horsham District and Mid Sussex District areas). A further consultation for East Sussex and Brighton would see boundary changes. The key elements of the new government proposals are as follows:

- **West Sussex proposals**

- Chichester District would form a unitary authority with Crawley Borough, Horsham District and Mid Sussex District areas. The population would be around 566,000
- Arun District, Adur District and Worthing Borough areas would form a second West Sussex unitary authority. The population would be around 349,000

- **East Sussex and Brighton and Hove proposals**

- specific wards from Lewes District (East Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven West, Peacehaven East, Peacehaven North) and Falmer Parish (from Kingston ward) would transfer into a unitary authority with Brighton and Hove. The population would be around 308,000
- a remaining East Sussex unitary would comprise Eastbourne Borough, Hastings Borough, Rother District, Wealden District and the rest of Lewes District. The population would be around 537,000



- 1- Eastbourne Borough
- 2 - Hastings Borough
- 3 - Rother District
- 4 - Wealden District
- 5 - Lewes District excluding the wards of East Saltdean & Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven West, Peacehaven East, Peacehaven North, and Falmer Parish (from Kingston ward)
- 6 - Arun District
- 7 - Adur District
- 8 - Worthing Borough
- 9 - Brighton and Hove with the wards of East Saltdean & Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven West, Peacehaven East, Peacehaven North, Falmer Parish (from Kingston ward)
- 10 - Crawley Borough
- 11 - Chichester District
- 12 - Horsham District
- 13 - Mid Sussex District

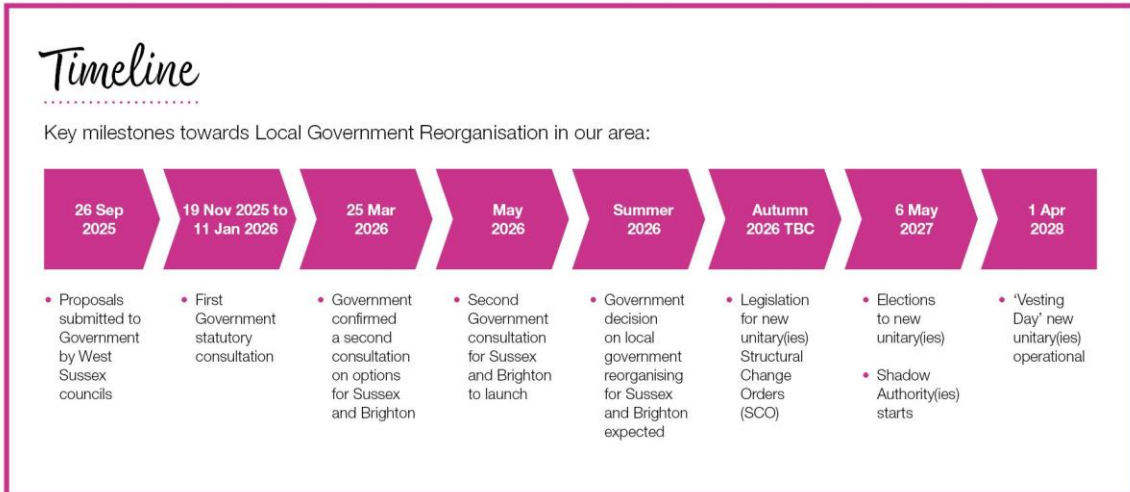
MHCLG proposed unitary areas

- Unitary A: Eastbourne, Hastings, Rother, Wealden and remaining parts of Lewes
- Unitary B: Arun, Adur, Worthing
- Unitary C: Brighton plus following wards and parish from Lewes – East Saltdean & Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven West, Peacehaven East, Peacehaven North, Falmer Parish (from Kingston ward)
- Unitary D: Crawley, Chichester, Horsham, Mid Sussex

Expected timeline

A decision is expected in the summer after the consultation period closes and the Government considers all representations including recommendations from councils and responses from both consultations. The overall timescale for reorganisation remains, with elections to the new shadow unitary authorities expected in 2027 preparing for the new authorities to formally launch in 2028.

- consultation opens: 12 May
- consultation closes: 11:59pm on 15 June 2026
- government decision expected: Summer 2026
- elections to new shadow authorities: Expected 2027
- new authorities launch: Expected 2028



As with the last consultation it is designed to gather comment from statutory consultees but equally welcomes comments from all individuals, stakeholders and interested parties and we have been asked to share the consultation and enable responses. As with the last government consultation we are arranging paper copies in A4 and large print at our office receptions as well as offering them in libraries. These are being printed and distributed as soon as we have the consultation information from government so may take a week to be available at the libraries.

For your residents, the core external message as we proceed through local government reorganisation remains one of reassurance - we will continue to collaborate closely behind the scenes to ensure a smooth transition. All eight existing councils will continue to operate and deliver services right up to the handover in 2028 when the new unitary councils will take responsibility for delivering services. Our external messaging will include the reminder for residents seeking council information or services to continue to contact their local councils in the usual way.

You can find shared materials, background information and evidence on the reorganisation proposals at: www.shapingwestsussex.org.uk as well as more information for teams on our intranet pages <https://staff.horsham.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation-lgr>.

Full consultation details and a link to submit a response is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/modified-proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-west-sussex/modified-proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-west-sussex>