



East Sussex Local Government Reorganisation survey

Right now in East Sussex, there are different councils that run and look after where you live. They each take care of different things. East Sussex County Council covers the whole of East Sussex and looks after things like schools, roads, and social care and education for children and adults. Then there are five smaller councils, the district and borough councils, that do things like collect bins, help people find homes, and give permission to build new things. In some towns and villages, there are also smaller town and parish councils that look after very local things like parks and graveyards.

This way of working has been around for 50 years. But now, the government thinks it's time for a change. They want to bring these services together, so that there is a new council (or councils) that takes care of everything, instead of having lots of separate ones. Except for the much smaller town and parish councils, that will stay the same. This process is called Local Government Reorganisation and is planned to happen by 2028.

An initial plan was sent to the government in March to explain how this process might work in East Sussex. You can view this plan online at **eastsussexcouncils.org**. The current idea is to have one council for the whole of the area covered by East Sussex County Council and the five district and borough councils, but this could change depending on what people think and what the government decides.

The government has a few rules about what the new council should be like:

- It should do all the jobs the current councils do.
- It should be big enough to save money, withstand financial shocks, and handle problems well.
- It should cover a population area of 500,000 people or more.
- It should prioritise delivering high quality services.
- Councils should work together to create a new council or councils that has listened to what local people need.
- It should help the whole of the Sussex area to work better together
- It should help local people have a stronger say in decision making and feel empowered where they live.

The council services you use

1. Which district or borough council area do you live in?

We are asking this to make sure we get representation from across the entire area.

- ☐ Eastbourne borough
- ☐ Hastings borough
- ☐ Lewes district
- ☐ Rother district
- ☐ Wealden district
- ☐ None of the above (I live outside of East Sussex)
- ☐ I don't know

2. This is a list of things that your local councils currently provide.

Which of them have you, or someone living in your home, used at least once in the last year?

It doesn't matter if you haven't used all the things listed for each service, please tick a service if you have used any of the things included.

- ☐ Community (such as: Libraries, parks or playgrounds, shows or fun days, activities for young people or families)
- ☐ Economic Development (such as: support for local businesses, grant funding, supporting local attractions, tourism: encouraging visitors)
- ☐ Education (such as: School admissions or transport, special educational needs)
- ☐ Environmental (such as: rubbish collection, recycling centres (the tip), street cleaning, environmental protection, coast/flood protection, getting rid of pests (rats, wasps))
- ☐ Planning and Building (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)
- ☐ Regulatory Functions (such as: trading standards, licensing (taxis, alcohol), food safety inspections, noise complaints, council tax, registering a birth, death or marriage)
- ☐ Road, Transport and Infrastructure (such as: local road repairs, pavement/footpath repairs, street lights, public toilets, car parks)
- ☐ Social Care and Support (such as: Adult social care, Children's social services, support to vulnerable people, homelessness prevention)

The importance of council services to you

3. How important are these council services to you?

Please tell us how much you think each one matters - even if you don't directly use a service.

	Very important - it really matters to me	Quite important - it matters a bit	Not very important - it doesn't matter much	Not important at all - it doesn't matter to me	I'm not sure
Community services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Economic Development	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Environmental services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning and Building services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public Health	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Regulatory Functions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Very important - it really matters to me	Quite important - it matters a bit	Not very important - it doesn't matter much	Not important at all - it doesn't matter to me	I'm not sure
Road, Transport and Infrastructure	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social Care and Support	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Important for a new council

4. Please pick the **two things** that would be most important to you in any new council(s) - in other words, what would you really like a new council to do well?

- ☐ Good access for residents so it is easy to get help or contact the new council
- ☐ High quality services that work really well
- ☐ Clear, open and honest decision making
- ☐ Regularly listening to residents about what they want and need
- ☐ Value for money - using money wisely

Understanding of LGR

5. How much do you know about the suggested changes to local councils (called Local Government Reorganisation or LGR)?

Please choose the one that fits you best.

- ☐ I understand it really 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

One single council option

6. As explained before, right now there is a plan to have just one council for all of East Sussex. This one council would replace the six councils (Eastbourne Borough Council, East Sussex County Council, Hastings Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Rother District Council and Wealden District Council) that work in East Sussex at the moment. We are still open to other options.

What do you think would be the good things and some of the potential problems with having just one single council across the area covered by East Sussex County Council and all five District and Borough councils?

Good
things:

Any
problems:

7. Other than a single council for the whole of the area covered by East Sussex County Council and the five District and Borough councils, do you think there are any other geographical boundaries that should be considered?

- ☐ Yes – please go to question 8
- ☐ No – please go to question 11 (equality monitoring)
- ☐ Don't know – please go to question 11 (equality monitoring)

Another option

8. As you said you thought there were other geographical boundaries that should be considered, please write your idea in the box below:

9. Would you like to tell us what you think is good about your idea, or any potential problems it may have?

- ☐ Yes – please go to question 10
- ☐ No, I'm not sure at the moment – please go to question 11 (equality monitoring)

Another option

10. Use the boxes below to tell us about your idea for other geographical boundaries.

Good things:

Any
problems:

Equality Monitoring

Please answer the questions below by ticking the boxes that you feel most describes you. Some questions may feel personal, but any information that you give will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be used only to help us to improve our services. It will not be linked to you as an individual. **You do not have to fill this in, but it will help us if you do.**

11. Which of the following describes yourself?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Please self-describe here as desired:

12. 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

13. 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 – please go to question 14
- ☐ No – please go to question 15 (postcode)
- ☐ Prefer not to say – please go to question 15 (postcode)

14. If you have answered 'yes', please tick the box ('s) that best describes your impairment.

This information helps us improve access and remove barriers to our services.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Blind or visual impairment | ☐ D/deaf or have a hearing impairment |
| ☐ A long-standing illness or health condition, e.g., cancer, HIV, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic asthma, epilepsy, cardiovascular conditions, sickle cell anaemia, motor neurone disease, some forms of dementia | ☐ A mental health difficulty, e.g., schizophrenia, depression, anxiety disorder, some forms of dementia |
| ☐ A physical impairment or mobility issues, e.g., walking, dexterity, difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches | ☐ A social/ communication impairment, e.g., speech and language impairment or Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder |
| ☐ A specific learning difficulty e.g., dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D | ☐ Prefer not to say |
| ☐ Other:
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 600px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> | |

15. What is your postcode?

This helps us make sure we are getting representation from all areas.

Keep in touch

If you would like to be included on our mailing list to make sure you hear about further engagement opportunities on local government reorganisation, please leave your contact details below:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

We are committed to ensuring that your privacy is protected and will only use and store your personal data in line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 and the Data Protection Act 2018. We collect and use your personal data in order to provide services you have requested from us or to carry out our legal obligations to you. We will not disclose your personal data to any third parties unless we need to do so to provide a service to you or we are legally required to do so.

Please return this completed survey to the council office you collected it from before the closing date of Monday 23rd June 2025.