

Update on Local Government Reorganisation (Devolution)

West Sussex local authorities were expecting a decision from the Government on local government reorganisation in our area by the end of March. The Government issued an update on 25th March 2026.

They have not made a decision on which unitary solution to apply in Sussex and instead have confirmed they will be running a second consultation on plans covering the whole of Sussex.

The new consultation will see two variations on the proposals already submitted by Sussex local authorities. The first proposed modification is moving Chichester District Council into a unitary with Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council and Mid Sussex District Council. Leaving a second unitary in West Sussex comprising Arun District Council, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council.

The second modification would see boundary changes moving wards in Falmer, Peacehaven and Saltdean from Lewes District Council in East Sussex to Brighton & Hove City Council.

The consultation will begin after the local elections in May 2026, and a decision is expected in the summer after the consultation period closes and new representations are considered. The overall timescale for reorganisation remains the same with elections to the new shadow unitary authorities expected in 2027 preparing for the new authorities to formally launch in 2028.

It is noted that all councils in West Sussex remain committed to working together in the best interests of our communities, and we will continue to collaborate closely as we await further clarity from Government.

The government statement is available at: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2026-03-25/hcws1455> and the latest correspondence is available here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69c3d6e4cdfd19de13d0f59e/SoS - Letter to Sussex Leaders 25.03.26.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69c3d6e4cdfd19de13d0f59e/SoS_-_Letter_to_Sussex_Leaders_25.03.26.pdf)