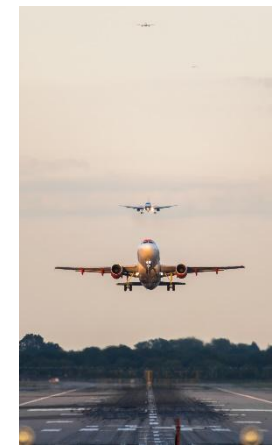


Shaping West Sussex

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Stakeholder engagement

17 July 2025



Approach

Leadership and Governance

- West Sussex Councils working collaboratively
- Programme Board led by Chief Executives and Programme Director
- West Sussex Leaders Board

Delivery

- Programme team – mix of in-house and external expertise
- Leader workshops to develop options and models such as priority services and localism in larger unitary models

Options development

- Shared evidence base and analysis to inform options
- Long list to short list of options for evaluation
- Test back other options through the process

Stakeholders

- Coordinated and thorough stakeholder engagement

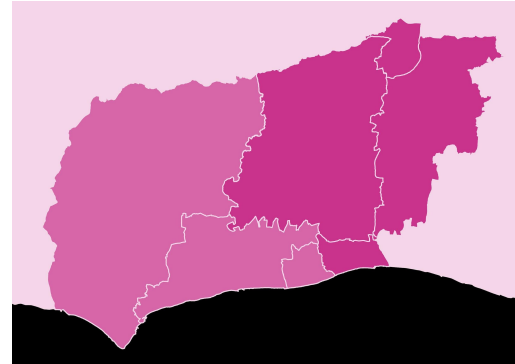
Initial short list of options selected for evaluation

OPTION A – Single County Unitary



County Council and all seven District and Borough Councils together.

OPTION B – Two Unitaries – West/East



Two unitary councils split broadly on West/East lines and building on existing District and Borough boundaries.

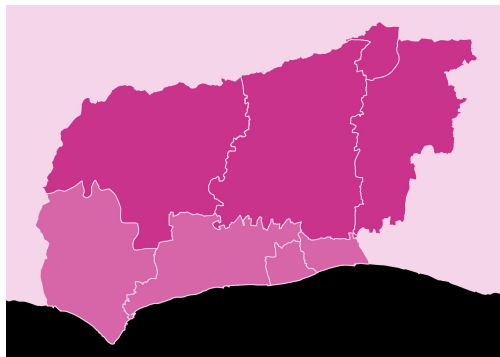
West:

- Arun
- Chichester
- Worthing

East:

- Adur
- Crawley
- Horsham
- Mid Sussex

OPTION C – Two Unitaries – North/South



Two unitary councils split broadly North/South. Requires splitting Chichester North and South.

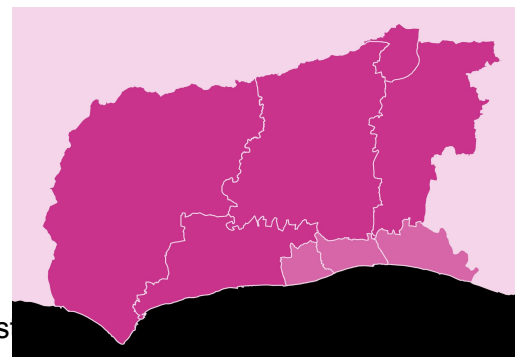
North:

- Crawley
- Horsham
- Mid Sussex
- Northern Chichester

South:

- Adur
- Arun
- Worthing
- Southern Chichester

OPTION D – Two Unitaries – Reduced WS & Urban Coastal



Two unitary councils; reduced West Sussex & Urban Coastal (Adur, Brighton & Hove and Worthing)

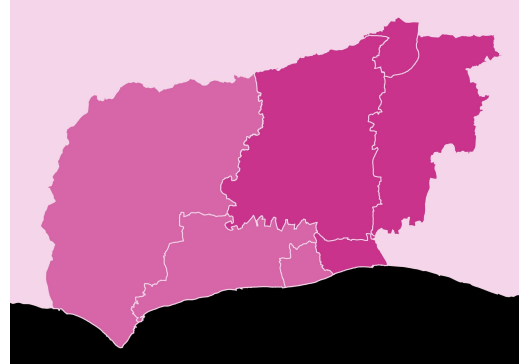
Viable options from the financial analysis

OPTION A – Single County Unitary



County Council and all seven District and Borough Councils together.

OPTION B1 – Two Unitaries



Two unitary councils split broadly on West/East lines and building on existing District and Borough boundaries. Adur in the East.

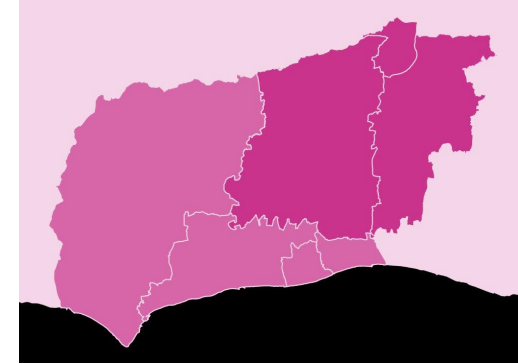
West:

- Arun
- Chichester
- Worthing

East:

- Adur
- Crawley
- Horsham
- Mid Sussex

OPTION B2 – Two Unitaries



Two unitary councils split broadly on West/East lines and building on existing District and Borough boundaries. Adur in the West.

West:

- Adur
- Arun
- Chichester
- Worthing

East:

- Crawley
- Horsham
- Mid Sussex

Evaluating the options

- Six thematic criteria
 - All equal weighting
 - Some measurable criteria
 - Qualitative narrative statement
 - Confirm adherence to procedural requirements
- ✓ A proposal should seek to achieve for the whole of the area concerned the establishment of a single tier of local government.
 - ✓ Unitary local government must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks.
 - ✓ Unitary structures must prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services to citizens.
 - ✓ Proposals should show how councils in the area have sought to work together in coming to a view that meets local needs and is informed by local views.
 - ✓ New unitary structures must support devolution arrangements.
 - ✓ New unitary structures should enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment.

Shaping West Sussex engagement

www.shapingwestsussex.org

Objectives

- **Inform** the business case and options assessment
- **Assess** the impact on the stakeholder or group
- **Consider** service delivery implications
- **Understand** community need and impact
- **Address** questions or concerns

What / how

- Shaping West Sussex engagement survey – 17 July to 13 August (resident, stakeholder, staff)
- Stakeholders – meetings, webinars and targeted emails to the survey
- Staff – regular updates through their Chief Executives and Communications teams

Key dates

1 July to 10 August (and ongoing)	Stakeholder engagement
17 July to 13 August	Public engagement
29 August	Draft financial model and draft business case
12 September	Final business case
From 15 September	Papers published
22/23 September	Worthing Full Council EM 22/9, Adur Full Council EM 23/9
24 September	Decision to submit proposals & plan to Govt at our Joint Strategic Committee
26 September	Submit to Government

For a proposal to be implemented, there must be a statutory consultation. Government will share details of public consultation after 26 September.

Early 2026	Decision expected
April 2026	Planning
May 2027	Shadow Authority
April 2028	Vesting day

QUESTIONS AND REFLECTIONS (UP TO 30 MINS)

- We imagine this will feel new and complex
- What initial questions do you have these options?
- What are your thoughts about the maps? What impact could they have?

Next steps

- Check out the www.shapingwestsussex.org survey and share your thoughts directly. Hard copies will be available in libraries
- We will organise a session on 30 July for local people in Adur & Worthing to ask questions and share reflections on the geographic options
- West Sussex Councils programme team are organising West Sussex-wide sessions which we will share