

Exploring the options for local government reorganisation

Help shape how Brighton & Hove responds to big changes in local government.

The government is planning a major reorganisation of how local councils work and has asked councils in Sussex to put forward proposals.

This is called Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and is part of a wider plans outlined in the English Devolution White Paper.

Help shape our response to government

We'd like your help to shape our response. What you tell us will inform the proposal we send to the government.

The government wants to abolish two tier county and district councils, like East Sussex County Council and Lewes District Council, with new single councils called 'unitary' councils. These new councils would take on all local services under one roof, from roads and housing to planning and care for adults.

Unlike other councils in Sussex, Brighton & Hove is already a unitary council but we're still affected. The government says that councils like ours need to grow to stay strong and financially secure. That means looking at our boundaries to better reflect how people live, travel and use local services.

We don't control when or how these changes happen, but we do have a chance to help shape what comes next. If we don't take part, decisions could be made for us without our input.

The options

To meet the government's criteria for local government reorganisation, we'll need to grow our boundaries and serve a larger population than we do now.

We're consulting on four options, all involving merging with local government wards to the east of the city. This is because there are already strong connections there, like shared hospitals, schools, bus routes and people working across the area.

These options are based on the feedback and evidence we learned from you in April, when we first asked for your opinions. The early engagement exercise helped us understand local priorities and concerns.

We looked at options to the west as well. While those areas face similar challenges as Brighton & Hove, they don't offer as many opportunities to improve local services or make communities more resilient. This means they're less likely to meet the government's criteria for reorganisation.

This change is part of bigger plans across the country. The government wants to give more power to the Sussex region by setting up a new Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA). The new councils will be part of this MCA, so what we decide now will affect how local people influence future decisions about things like transport, housing, skills and investment.

We're aiming for a fair setup across Sussex, where every council has enough people, money and influence to run services well and speak up for its community.

Nothing's been decided yet. Your feedback will help shape Brighton & Hove's plans, but the government will choose which ideas move forward and what happens next.

Have your say

Have your say on the options until Monday 25 August 2025. The survey will take around 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

About you

1. How are you primarily responding? (optional)

We know people have many different relationships with the council and the city.

For example, you may be a resident and a member of staff, or a resident and business owner or part of a community group.

Let us know how you're primarily responding. Only choose one option.

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A resident of Brighton & Hove | ☐ A resident living outside of Brighton & Hove who may be affected by these proposed options |
| ☐ A council employee | ☐ Local business |
| ☐ Local charity, community or voluntary organisation | ☐ A public sector stakeholder organisation such as police, health, fire and rescue |
| ☐ Other | |

If 'Other', please specify

About you

2. What is your full postcode? (optional)

We ask this so we can understand where responses are coming from. It helps us identify patterns in how different communities are using services and what views are shared in different places.

This supports fair and balanced analysis of the consultation.

Please answer based on how you identified yourself in question 1. For example, resident, business or organisation.

What matters to You

3. Which of the following Brighton & Hove services have you used in the last 12 months? (optional)

Please select all that apply.

**Choose as many as you like*

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Bus or transport network | ☐ Secondary or further education |
| ☐ Mental health support in schools | ☐ Parks and seafront |
| ☐ Libraries or cultural venues | ☐ Children's or youth services |
| ☐ Public health like health checks or vaccinations | ☐ Waste and recycling centres |
| ☐ Council housing or homelessness advice | ☐ None of the above |

4. Do you use similar services in other areas? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / not sure

What matters to you

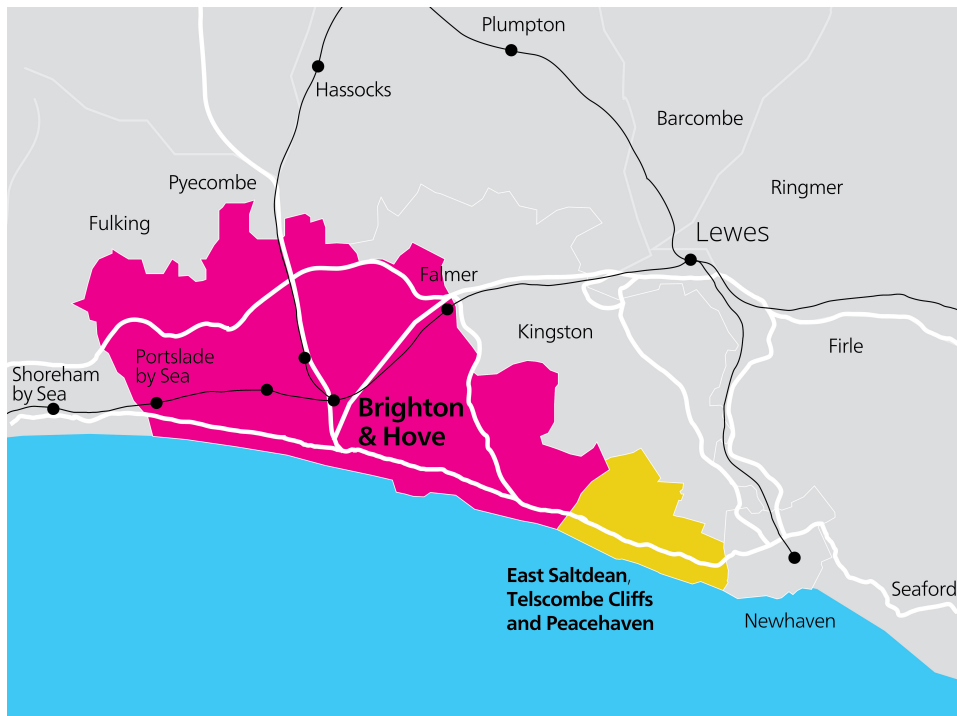
5. If change does happen and your areas becomes part of a merged larger council, what would be most important to protect or preserve? (optional)

Think about local services, identity, representation or something else.

What matters to you

6. What concerns, if any, do you have about how local councils will change through reorganisation? (optional)

Your views on the proposed option A



This option brings together our three neighbouring towns, East Saltdean, Telscombe Cliffs and Peacehaven, within a single council area with Brighton & Hove. It reflects the close, everyday connections between the areas.

Residents in these areas regularly use Brighton & Hove's schools, hospitals, public transport and leisure facilities, and many commute into the city for work.

Despite this, these communities currently sit outside the city's boundary and have no formal voice in shaping the services they use. This option would correct that by aligning democratic representation with how people already live, without changing the distinct identity of these places.

Bringing these towns together with Brighton & Hove in to one council area could help unlock greater investment in local priorities, such as improved coordination of school places, youth services over a wider area and better public transport links.

7. To what extent do you support or oppose option A: strengthening the eastern edge (optional)

This will mean expanding the boundaries to include East Saltdean, Telscombe Cliffs and Peacehaven.

Please write a number between 1 (Strongly support) and 5 (Strongly oppose) only

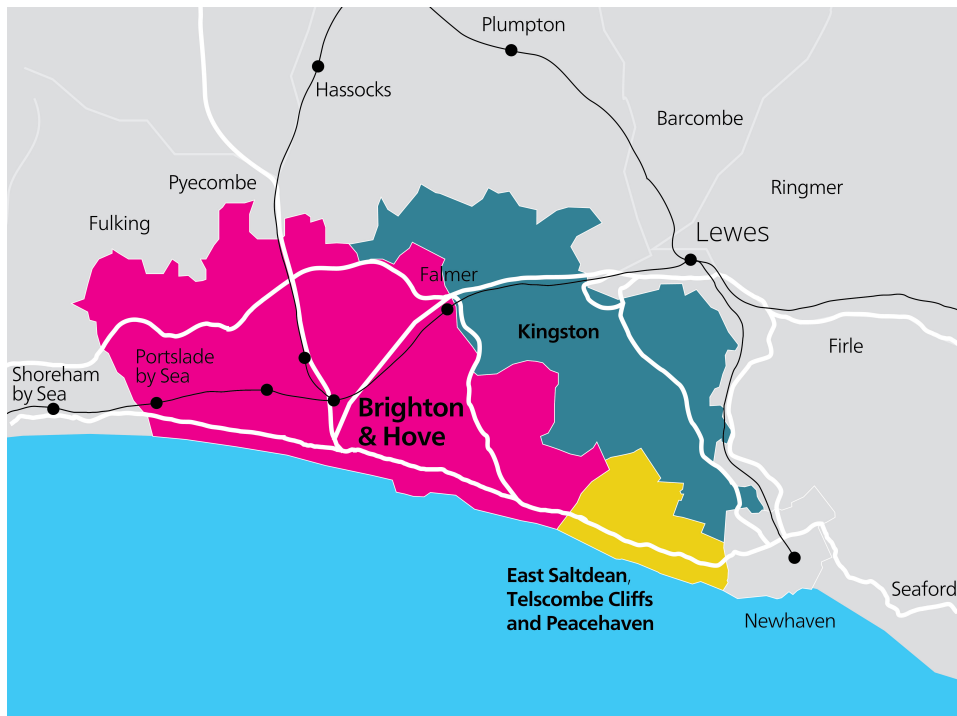
8. What are your main reasons for your answer? (optional)

Use this box to tell us more about what you think.

You might want to consider:

- Does the option feel too big or too small?
- Does it reflect your area's identity or not?
- Does it match how you use services, travel or take part in community life?

Your views on the proposed option B



This option brings together East Saltdean, Telscombe Cliffs and Peacehaven with Kingston within a single council area with Brighton & Hove.

Many Kingston residents rely on Brighton & Hove for education, healthcare and employment, through the A27 and closeness to Falmer Station.

The University of Sussex campus is mostly in Brighton & Hove, but part of it falls under Lewes. Bringing it all under one council would make services for students more joined-up and easier to manage.

We already manage parts of the Downland Estate and this option would bring the estate fully into the city's council area. Including this would line up who owns the land, who provides services and who makes decisions for the area.

Including Kingston could also support better environmental planning and stewardship of the downs and improve transport planning along the A27 corridor.

Despite these changes, Kingston's rural character and identity would be preserved. Including the area ensures its residents are fairly represented in decisions about services they already use, while giving rural voices a formal seat within a broader city-region framework.

9. To what extent do you support or oppose option B: extending to the eastern downs (optional)

This will mean expanding the boundaries to include East Saltdean, Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven and Kingston.

Please write a number between 1 (Strongly support) and 5 (Strongly oppose) only

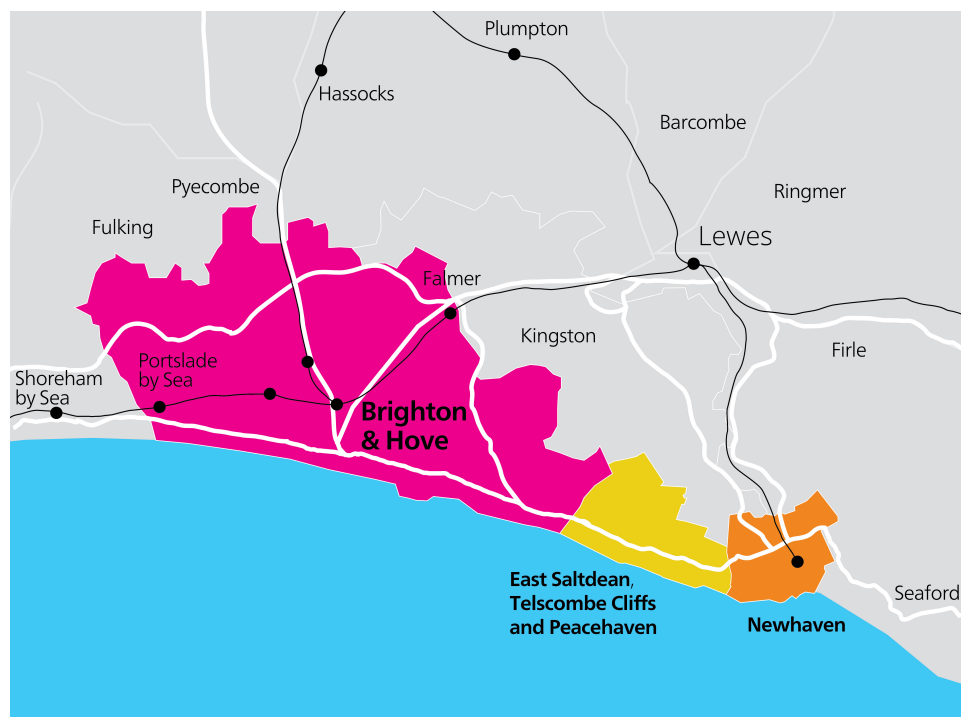
10. What are your main reasons for your answer? (optional)

Use this box to tell us more about what you think.

You might want to consider:

- Does the option feel too big or too small?
- Does it reflect your area's identity or not?
- Does it match how you use services, travel or take part in community life?

Your views on the proposed option C



This option brings together a continuous stretch of the Sussex coast, from East Saltdean through Peacehaven to Newhaven, within a single council area with Brighton & Hove.

These communities are already connected in everyday life. Many people travel between them for work, education, healthcare, shopping and leisure. Public transport, housing markets and essential services already operate across current council boundaries.

Peacehaven and Newhaven each have a strong sense of identity but face challenges that have proved difficult to tackle in isolation. Bringing these places into a single council would allow for coordinated planning and investment across the coastal area.

It would enable these areas to draw on Brighton & Hove's national networks and experience, for example, improved bus links, economic investment or increasing access to job opportunities. As well as support action on shared challenges like coastal erosion, climate resilience and flood risk.

Rather than being absorbed, towns like Newhaven and Peacehaven would be an equal part of the local authority. Local priorities would have a stronger voice. Each place could retain its character while benefiting from shared resources, better coordination and an ambitious future.

11. To what extent do you support or oppose option C: uniting the coastal corridor (optional)

This will mean expanding the boundaries to include East Saltdean & Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven and Newhaven.

Please write a number between 1 (Strongly support) and 5 (Strongly oppose) only

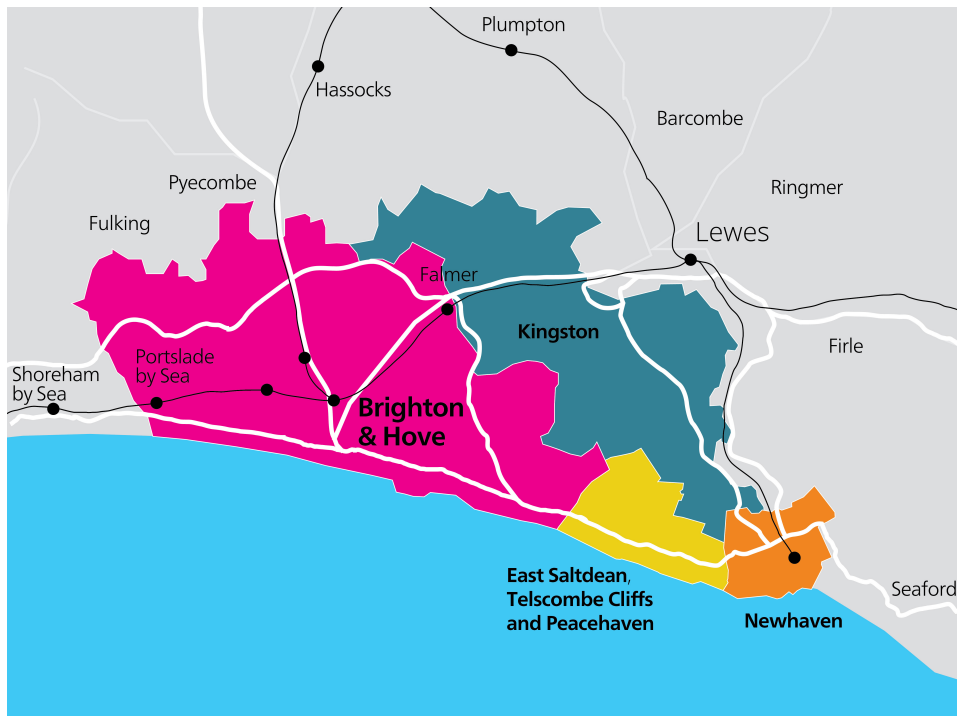
12. What are your main reasons for your answer? (optional)

Use this box to tell us more about what you think.

You might want to consider:

- Does the option feel too big or too small?
- Does it reflect your area's identity or not?
- Does it match how you use services, travel or take part in community life?

Your views on the proposed option D



This option brings together a mix of coastal towns and rural villages into a single council area with Brighton & Hove.

This is the most balanced option in terms of population. It would create a council that is large enough to deliver services efficiently, while remaining locally accountable. Each area would continue to elect its own councillors, giving communities a clear voice and helping to shape services that work for everyone.

Many people in these areas already travel into the city for work, health care, schools, shopping and leisure. Brighton & Hove already manages land and services nearby, including Stanmer Park and parts of the Downland Estate.

Creating one council for this wider area would allow decisions about shared services to be made in a more joined-up and effective way. This includes areas such as public transport, social care, youth services, housing and parks. It would also give residents outside the current city boundary a stronger voice in how services they use are planned and delivered.

Peacehaven and Newhaven, having stronger links with Brighton & Hove's diverse and growing economy would enable coordinated investment, planning and regeneration including growing local jobs and improving public spaces.

Kingston is a rural area just east of the city. Although small, many residents already rely on Brighton & Hove for services. Including Kingston in the same council area would ensure fairer representation, while continuing to reflect its rural character and priorities.

13. To what extent do you support or oppose option D: Coast and Downs Partnership (optional)

This will mean expanding the boundaries to include: East Saltdean, Telscombe Cliffs, Peacehaven, Newhaven, Kingston

Please write a number between 1 (Strongly support) and 5 (Strongly oppose) only

14. What are your main reasons for your answer? (optional)

Use this box to tell us more about what you think.

You might want to consider:

- Does the option feel too big or too small?
- Does it reflect your area’s identity or not?
- Does it match how you use services, travel or take part in community life?

Further comments

15. Do you have any final comments about how Brighton & Hove should be organised in future, or about any of the proposals you’ve seen? (optional)

Equalities monitoring questions

We would like to ask you some equality monitoring questions.

- *All responses are anonymous.*
- *Data is used to help the council fulfil its legal equalities duties and ensure its services meet the needs of customers and service users*
- *The information you give will be used to see what impact these proposals may have on particular groups. We can also adjust our approach if we find a particular group is under-represented.*

These questions are different from the other questions in the survey.

These questions are optional and your answers are anonymous.

16. Do you want to answer the following equalities monitoring questions? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Equalities monitoring questions

17. What is your age? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ☐ 0 to 15 | ☐ 16 to 24 |
| ☐ 25 to 34 | ☐ 35 to 44 |
| ☐ 45 to 54 | ☐ 55 to 64 |
| ☐ 65 to 74 | ☐ 75 to 84 |
| ☐ 85 + | ☐ Prefer not to say |

Equalities monitoring questions

18. What best describes your gender? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Female | ☐ Male |
| ☐ Intersex | ☐ Non-binary |
| ☐ Prefer not to say | ☐ Other |

If 'Other', please specify

19. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Equalities monitoring questions

20. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Asexual | ☐ Bisexual or Bi |
| ☐ Gay or Lesbian | ☐ Heterosexual or 'straight' |
| ☐ Queer | ☐ Prefer not to say |
| ☐ Other | |

If 'Other', please specify

Equalities monitoring questions

21. How would you describe your ethnic origin? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Asian / Asian British: Bangladeshi | ☐ Asian / Asian British: Chinese |
| ☐ Asian / Asian British: Indian | ☐ Asian / Asian British: Pakistani |
| ☐ Asian / Asian British: Other (please share details below) | ☐ Black / Black British: African |
| ☐ Black / Black British: Caribbean | ☐ Black / Black British: Other (please share details below) |
| ☐ Mixed: Asian and White | ☐ Mixed: Black African and White |
| ☐ Mixed: Black Caribbean and White | ☐ Mixed: Any other mixed / multiple ethnic background |
| ☐ White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British | ☐ White: Irish |
| ☐ White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller | ☐ White: Other |
| ☐ Other Ethnic Group: Arab | ☐ Prefer not to say |
| ☐ Other | |

If 'Other', please specify

Equalities monitoring questions

22. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes, a lot
- ☐ Yes, a little
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Equalities monitoring questions

23. Please select your health condition, illness or disability from the list below (optional)

Please select all that apply

**Choose as many as you like*

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Autism/autistic spectrum disorder or condition | ☐ Developmental (e.g. affecting motor, cognitive, social, language) |
| ☐ Hearing (e.g. D/deaf, partial loss) | ☐ Learning disability |
| ☐ Learning difference (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD) | ☐ Long-term physical illness/health condition (e.g. cancer, diabetes) |
| ☐ Mental health difference / condition (e.g. depression, schizophrenia) | ☐ Physical difference (e.g. condition limiting basic physical activities) |
| ☐ Sight (e.g. blindness, partial sight loss) | ☐ Speech and language |
| ☐ Visible difference with a disabling and/or discriminatory impact | ☐ Prefer not to say |
| ☐ Other | |

If 'Other', please specify
